

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP **12¢**

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

17
OCT.

GUEST-STARRING:
**THE
HUMAN TORCH**

"THE
RETURN OF
THE
GREEN
GOBLIN!"
(AND WHAT A
RETURN
IT IS!!)





"THE RETURN OF THE GREEN GOBLIN!"

RUGGEDLY WRITTEN
BY: STAN LEE

ROBUSTLY DRAWN
BY: STEVE DITKO

RECENTLY LETTERED
BY: S. ROSEN

LOOK AT OL' BOOKWORM PARKER! THE WAY HE'S GLUED TO THAT CHEM BOOK, YOU'D THINK HE WAS READIN' THE LATEST JAMES BOND MYSTERY!

IT'S BEEN MONTHS SINCE I HAD THAT BATTLE WITH THE **GREEN GOBLIN!** * I WONDER WHAT *BECAME* OF HIM? WHY HASN'T HE BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE ??

STAN AND STEVE DO IT AGAIN!!

BE SURE TO READ THIS YARN *CAREFULLY*, FOR IT'S CERTAIN TO BE DISCUSSED AND ARGUED ABOUT BY SPIDEY FANS THROUGHOUT THE FREE WORLD FOR A LONG TIME TO COME!

SEE ME AFTER CLASS, KIDS! OL' FLASH HAS SOME *BIG NEWS* FOR YOU !!

* SEE SPIDER-MAN #14... EDITOR.

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY, AT THE SAME TIME THAT PETER PARKER SITS IN HIS SCIENCE CLASSROOM, THE VERY ONE HE IS THINKING OF IS ALSO THINKING OF **HIM!** OR, TO PUT IT MORE ACCURATELY... OF **SPIDER-MAN!**

THE **NEXT** TIME I BATTLE SPIDER-MAN, I'LL HAVE **NEW** WEAPONS TO DEFEAT HIM WITH!



NOW I'M ONLY PRACTICING WITH A DUMMY TARGET! BUT I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL I GET A CHANCE TO USE MY LITTLE BAG OF TRICKS ON THE **REAL** SPIDER-MAN!



WITH ALL THE PRACTICING I'VE DONE, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO VANQUISH HIM JUST AS EASILY AS I'VE BEATEN HIS LIFELESS REPLICA!



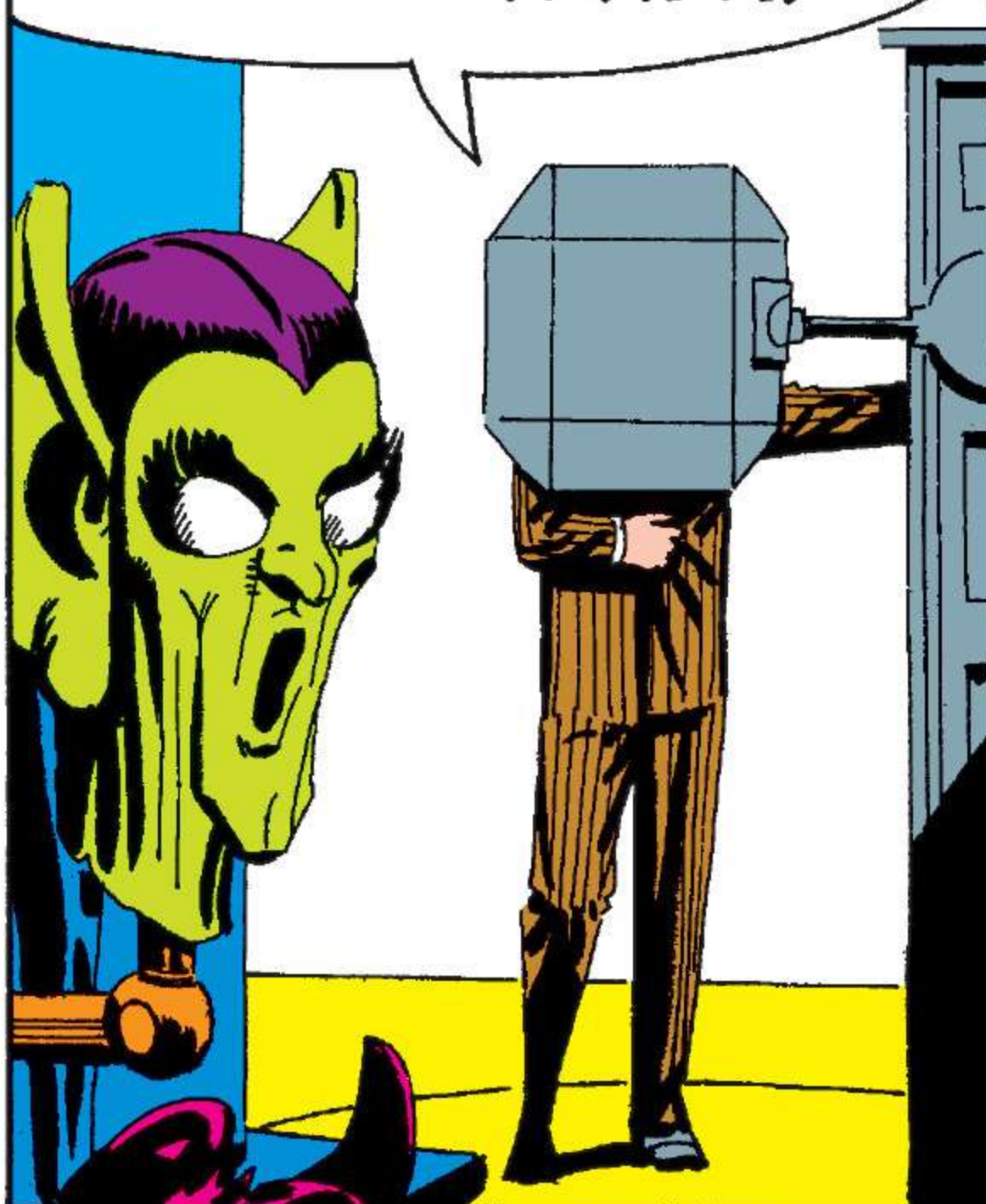
I'VE EVEN REDESIGNED MY JET-POWERED GOBLIN-GLIDER, MAKING IT STILL FASTER AND MORE MANEUVERABLE!



AH, YES! WHEN NEXT WE MEET, SPIDER-MAN WILL FIND THAT THE MYSTERIOUS GREEN GOBLIN IS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR HIM AND HIS OWN PUNY POWERS!!

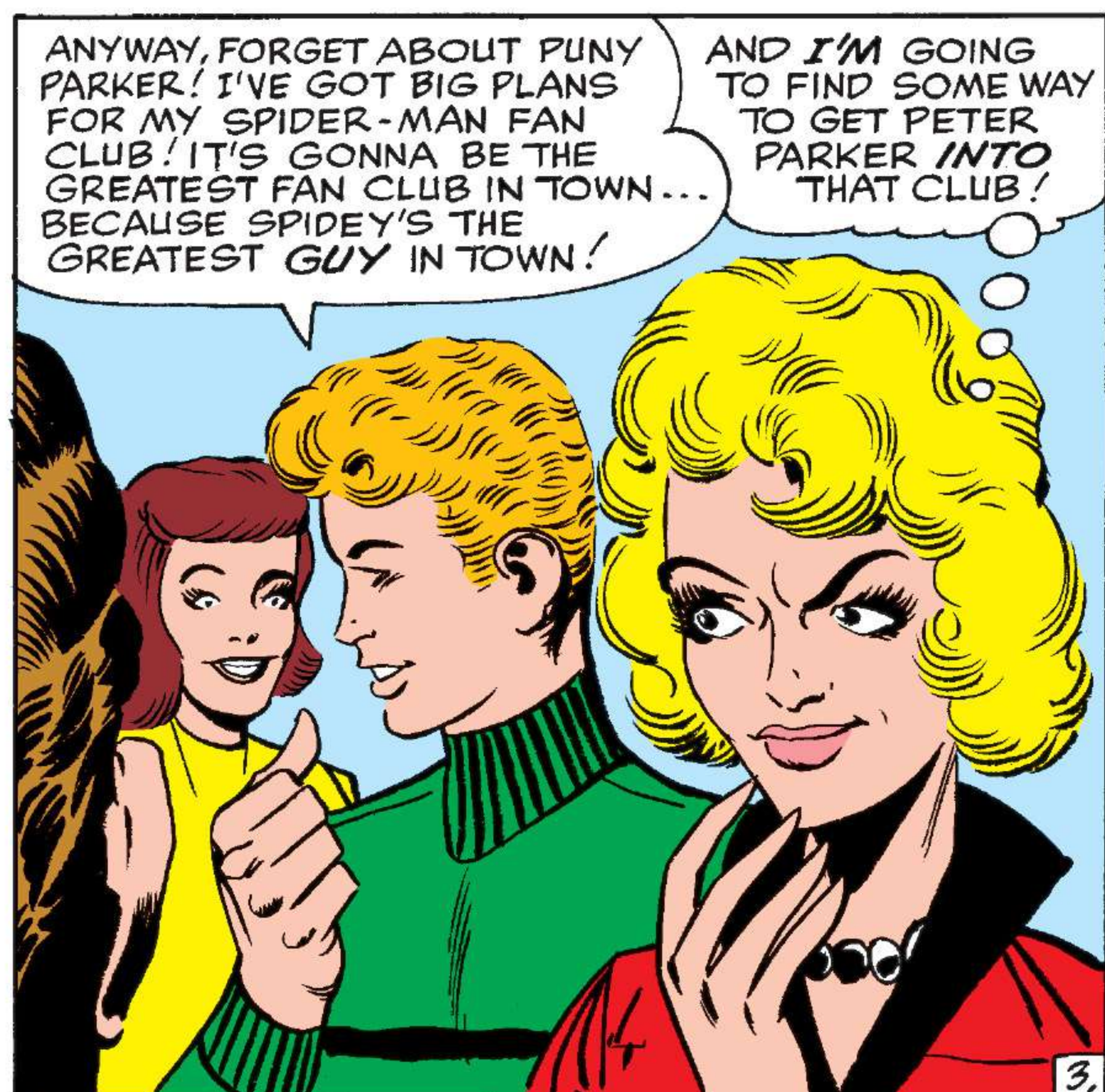
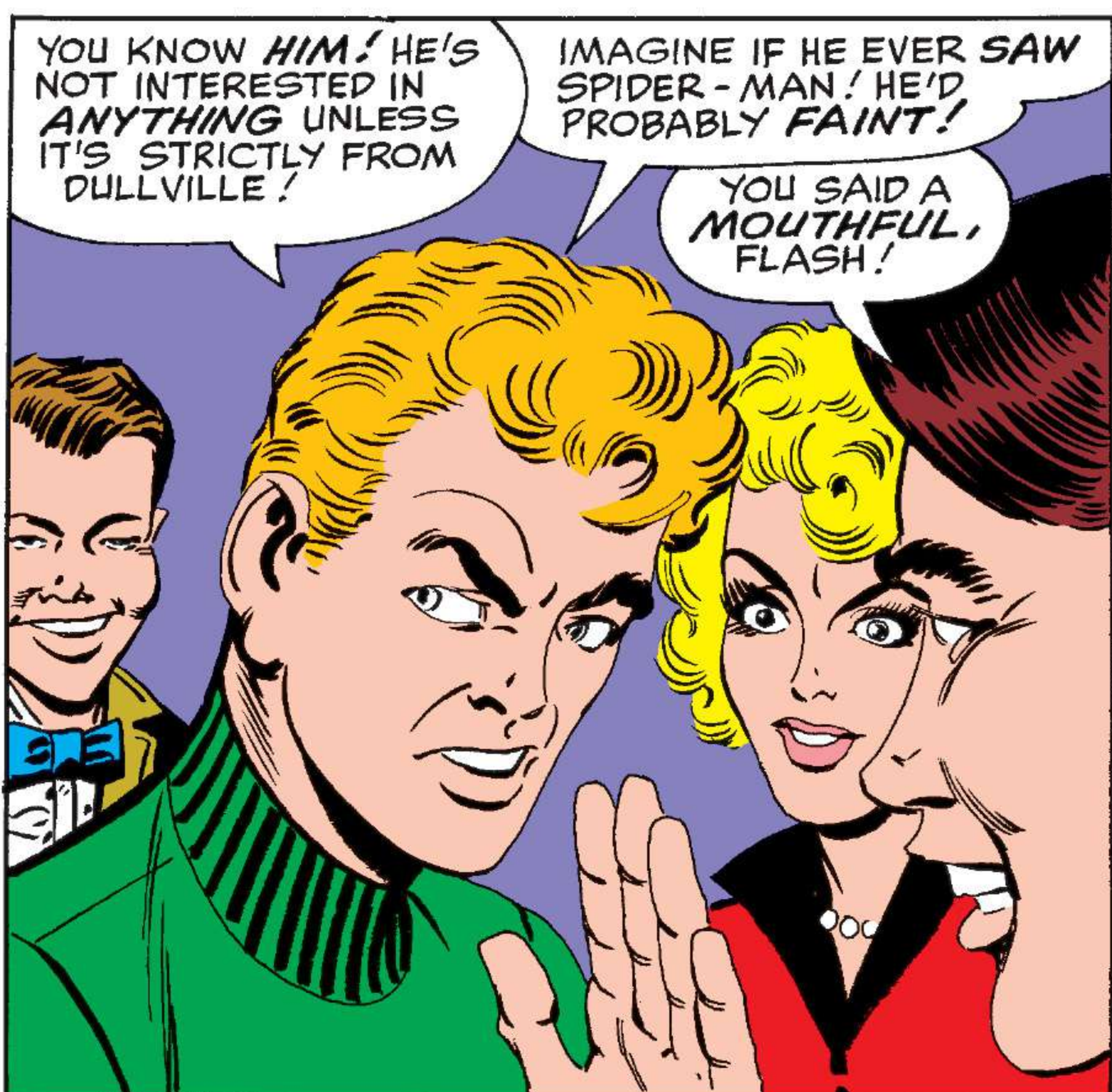
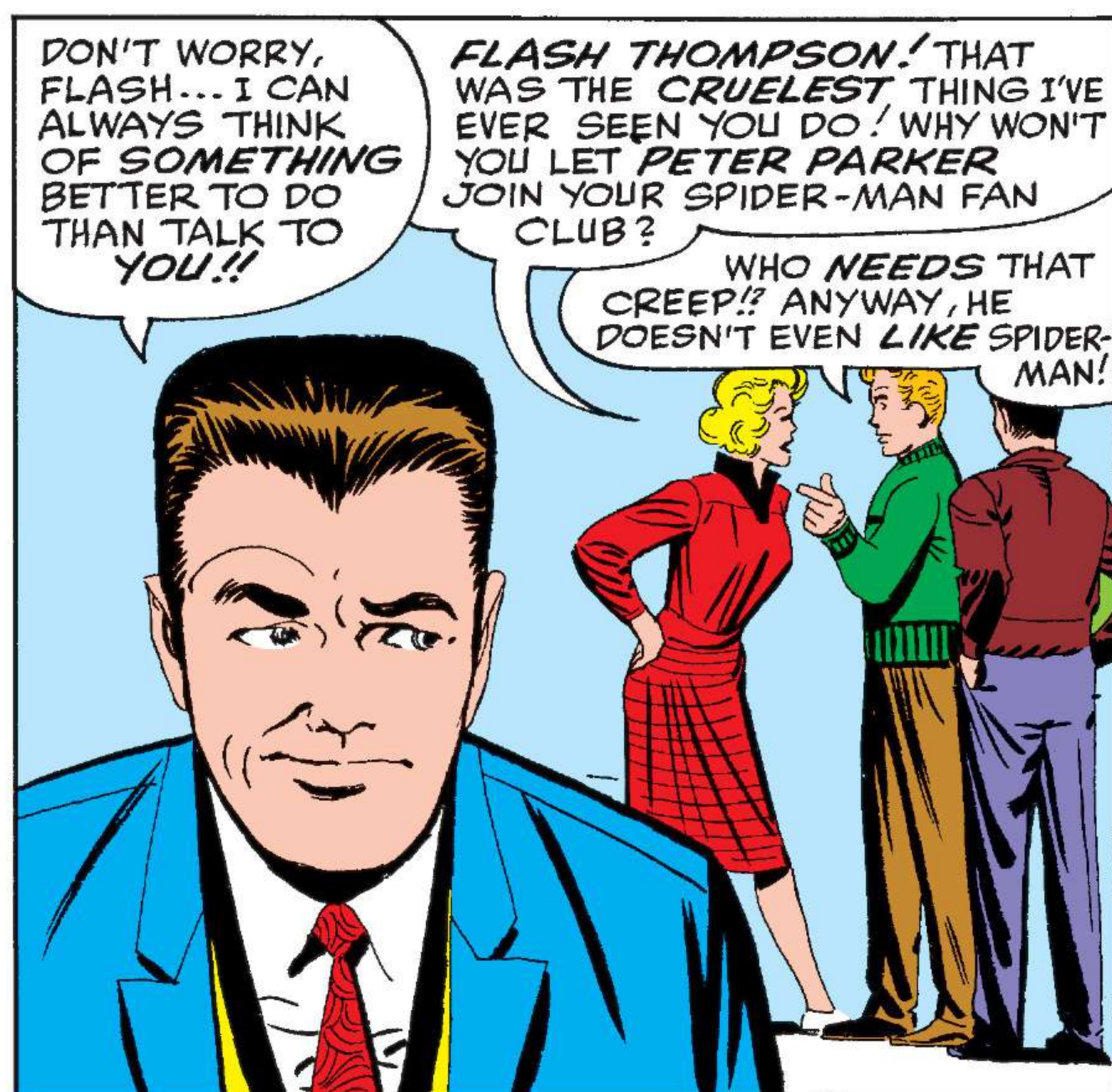


I'VE WAITED ALL THESE MONTHS TO GIVE MYSELF ENOUGH TIME TO PREPARE FOR OUR NEXT ENCOUNTER! ... AND, AT LAST THE GOBLIN IS **READY!!**



NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS FOR ME TO DO... IS... **FIND SPIDER-MAN!**





A FEW MINUTES LATER, AS PETE WALKS HOME...

WHAT'S EVERYONE *STARING* AT?? UH OH...UP ON THAT ROOF...LOOKS LIKE *TROUBLE!!*

LOOK! THEY'RE RUNNING INTO A WAITING HELICOPTER!

I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT!!

MEN IN *COSTUMES*... RACING INTO THAT HOVERING WHIRLY-BIRD! WHATEVER THEY'RE DOING... THEY'RE UP TO NO GOOD!

THEY'VE GOT A REAL HEAD START, BUT WITH A LITTLE LUCK, OL' *SPIDER-MAN* OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO CATCH THEM BEFORE THEY CAN GET OUT OF REACH! HERE GOES NOTHIN'....!

WHEEEEEEE! LOOK, MA...NO HANDS!!

MAYBE I'M JUST A CORNY SHOWOFF, BUT IT SURE FEELS GREAT TO GET INTO ACTION AGAIN!!

I WONDER IF FLASH THOMPSON IS WATCHING? WOULDN'T IT BE SOMETHING IF HE EVER FOUND OUT WHO I REALLY AM ?!!



AND, AS YOU'D EXPECT, WHEN PETER REACHES THE NEWS-PAPER OFFICE OF J. JONAH JAMESON, HE FINDS...

THIS IS THE BEST NEWS I'VE HEARD IN MONTHS! SPIDER-MAN MADE A LAUGHING STOCK OF HIMSELF! EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT HIS BONEHEAD MISTAKE!

OH, HELLO, PETER! IS SOMETHING WRONG? WHY THE FROWN?

I DON'T KNOW... I GUESS I'VE JUST GOT A HEADACHE!



WELL, WELL! PETER PARKER, MY DEMON PHOTOGRAPHER! I FEEL SO GOOD, I'M EVEN GLAD TO SEE YOU!

I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU AS SOON AS I FINISH WRITING THIS ANTI-SPIDER MAN EDITORIAL FOR THE NEXT EDITION

THAT'S OKAY, MR. JAMESON! I JUST CAME BY TO WALK BETTY HOME!

I'M READY TO LEAVE NOW, PETER!



YOU KNOW, PETER... I WISH MR. JAMESON DIDN'T HATE SPIDER-MAN SO!

REALLY? WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE TO YOU, BETTY?

GOSH, I HOPE SHE'S NOT BEGINNING TO SUSPECT WHO SPIDEY REALLY IS!!



HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, PETER? SPIDER-MAN SAVED MY LIFE THREE TIMES IN THE PAST!

WHEW! SO THAT'S ALL SHE MEANT! WHAT A RELIEF! AND NOW... OH NO! UP AHEAD!! JUST MY LUCK!!



BETTY, I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I FORGOT TO TELL MR. JAMESON! LET'S GO BACK FOR A MINUTE AND... UH...

PETER! WHAT ON EARTH...? OH, SOMEONE IS CALLING YOU!



PETHEY! IT'S ME, LIZ! COME HERE! I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!

DOES THAT SQUARE HAVE TO POP UP WHEREVER WE GO?

GOSH, I'M SORRY, BETTY! I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT LIZ! I HOPED WE COULD GET AWAY BEFORE SHE SAW US!

OH, STOP THE ACT, "PETHEY"! YOU'RE NOT IMPRESSING ME ONE BIT!



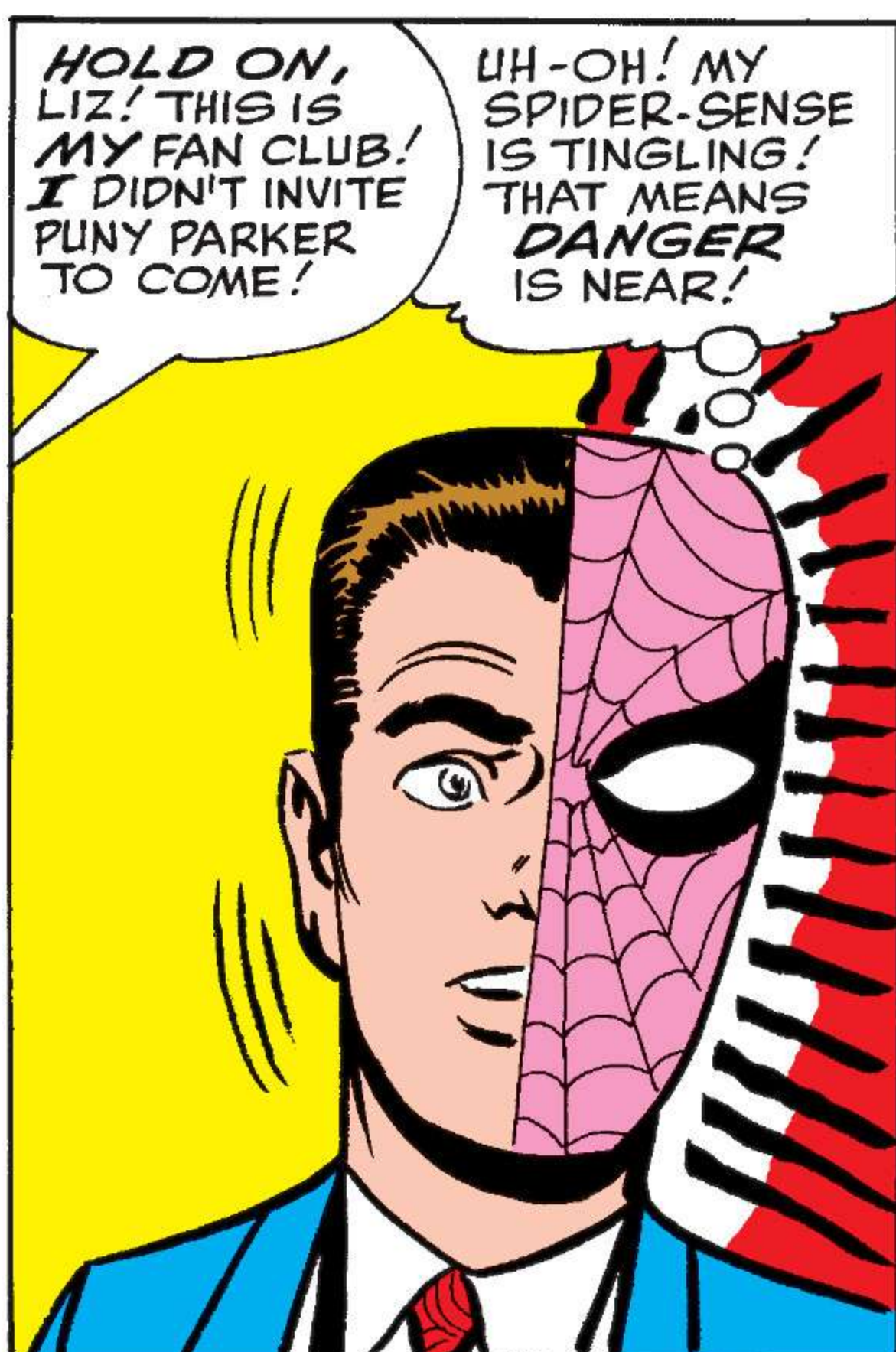
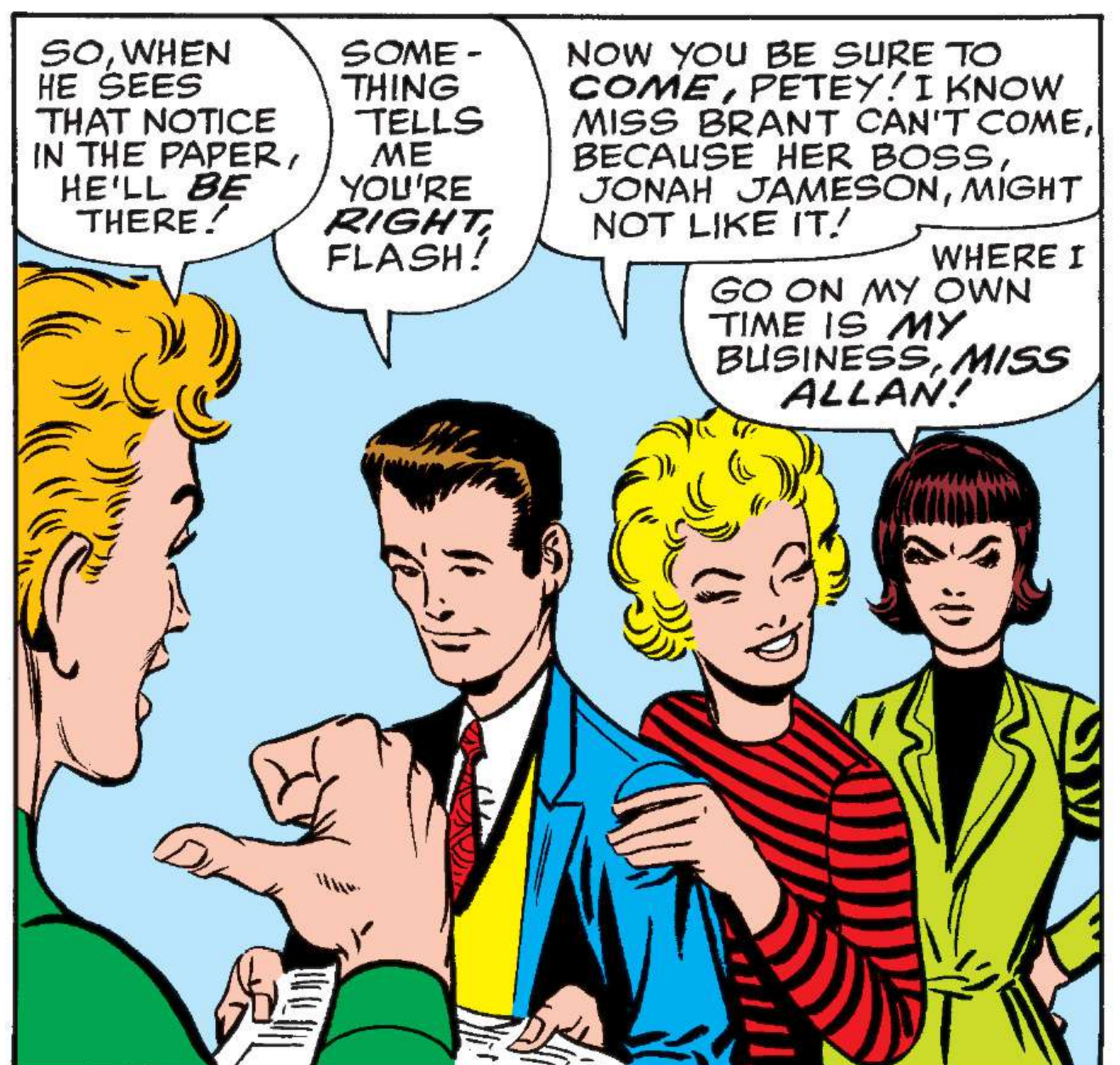
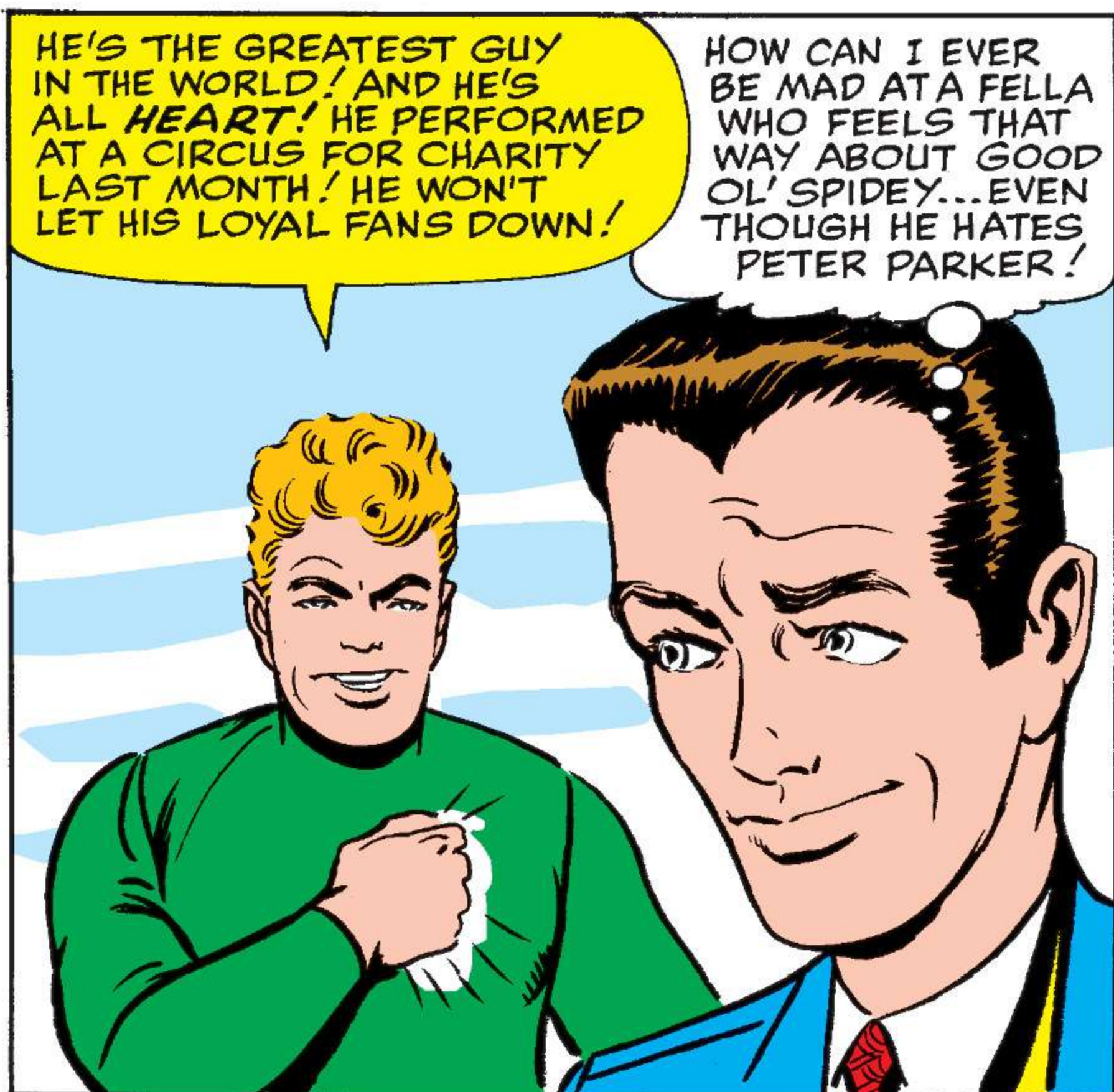
MMMM, PUTTING ON SOME WEIGHT, AREN'T YOU, MISS BRANT? HERE, PETHEY... I WANT YOU TO READ THIS!

IT'S ABOUT THE SPIDER-MAN FAN CLUB!

OH!! WHEN SHE CALLS ME "MISS BRANT" I FEEL A HUNDRED YEARS OLD!!



BIG DEAL! PARKER CAN READ!







IT'S THE MAN I SAW IN THE STREET BEFORE! WITH A GUN! HE WAS A CROOK!

SHOULD I TACKLE HIM AS PETER PARKER, OR HIDE SOMEWHERE AND CHANGE AGAIN!?



BUT, AS THE HESITANT YOUTH PONDER'S HIS COURSE OF ACTION, A FLAMING FIREBALL STREAKS DOWN FROM ABOVE, MELTING THE STARTLED FUGITIVE'S GUN!

WHA...?!



IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH! HE BEAT ME TO THE PUNCH!

THERE HE IS! MUCH OBLIGED, TORCH!

GOOD THING I WAS PASSING BY!

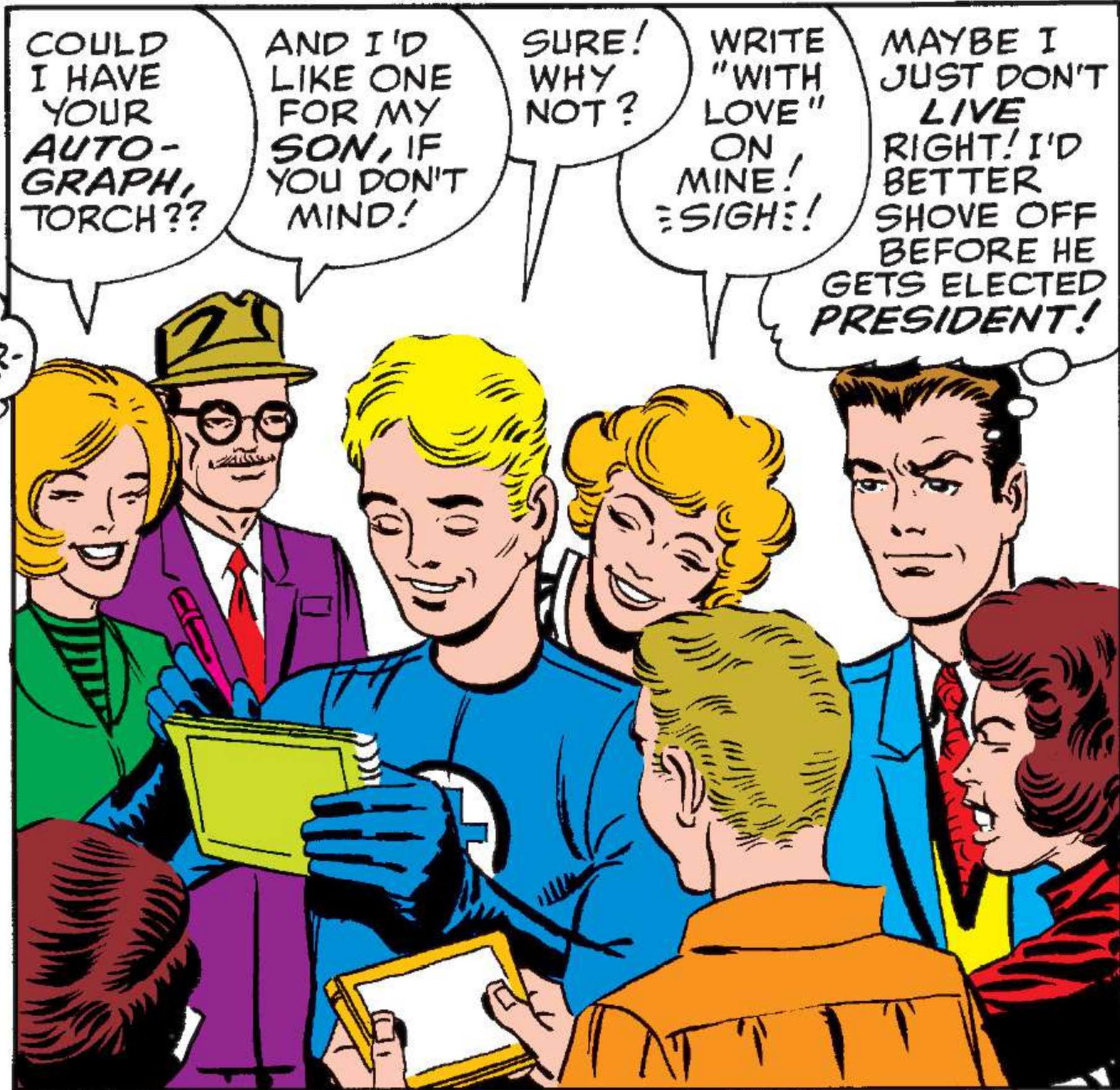


NICE WORK, TORCH! YOU SAVED US A POSSIBLE GUN FIGHT!

THAT WAS A WONDERFUL BIT OF MARKSMANSHIP, SON! YOU DESTROYED HIS GUN WITHOUT INJURING HIS HAND! YOU'RE A REAL HERO!

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK, GENTS!

HM! NOBODY EVER MAKES THAT MUCH FUSS OVER SPIDER-MAN!



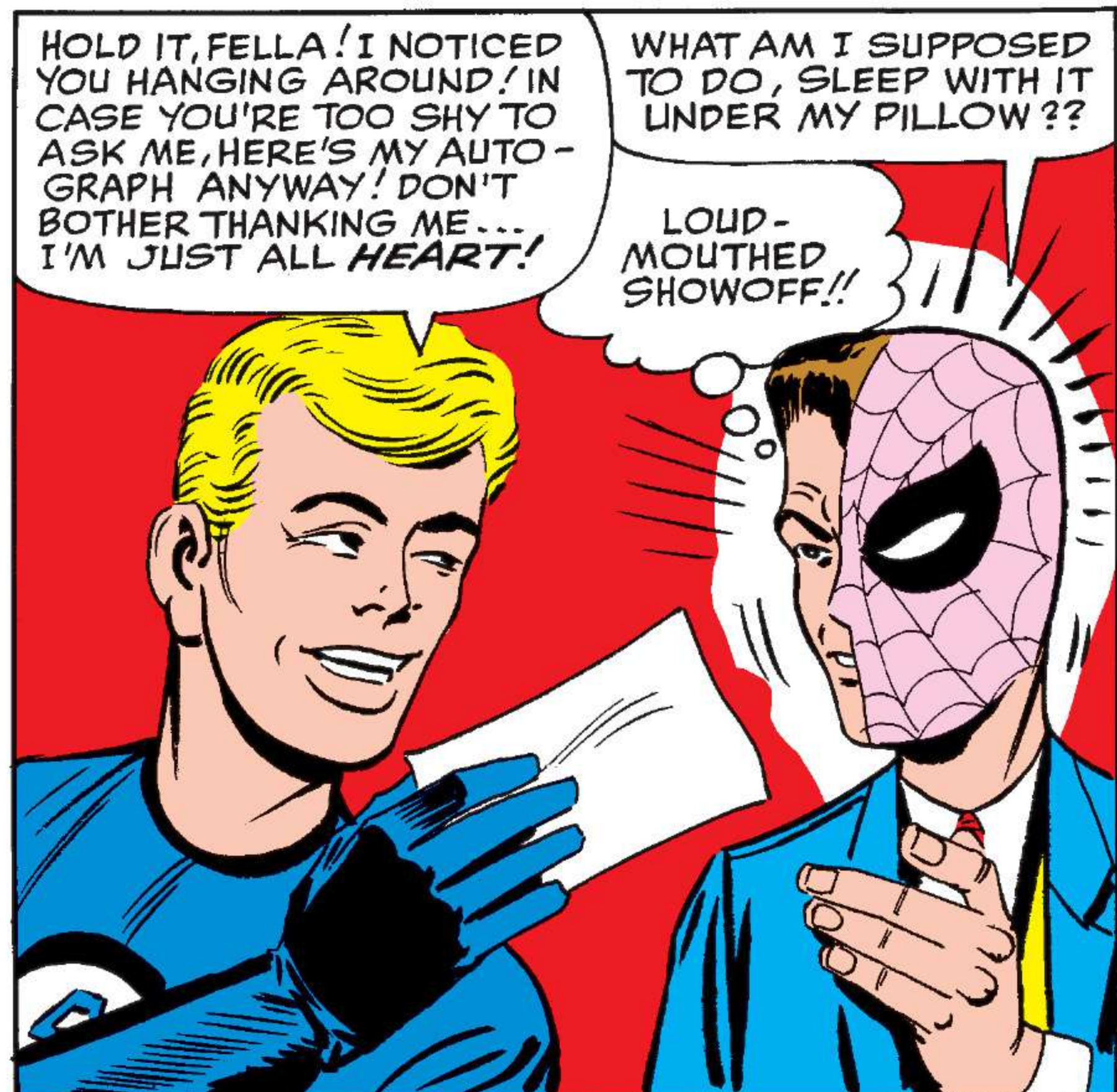
COULD I HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH, TORCH??

AND I'D LIKE ONE FOR MY SON, IF YOU DON'T MIND!

SURE! WHY NOT?

WRITE "WITH LOVE" ON MINE! SIGH!!

MAYBE I JUST DON'T LIVE RIGHT! I'D BETTER SHOVE OFF BEFORE HE GETS ELECTED PRESIDENT!



HOLD IT, FELLA! I NOTICED YOU HANGING AROUND! IN CASE YOU'RE TOO SHY TO ASK ME, HERE'S MY AUTO-GRAPH ANYWAY! DON'T BOTHER THANKING ME... I'M JUST ALL HEART!

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO, SLEEP WITH IT UNDER MY PILLOW??

LOUD-MOUTHED SHOWOFF!!



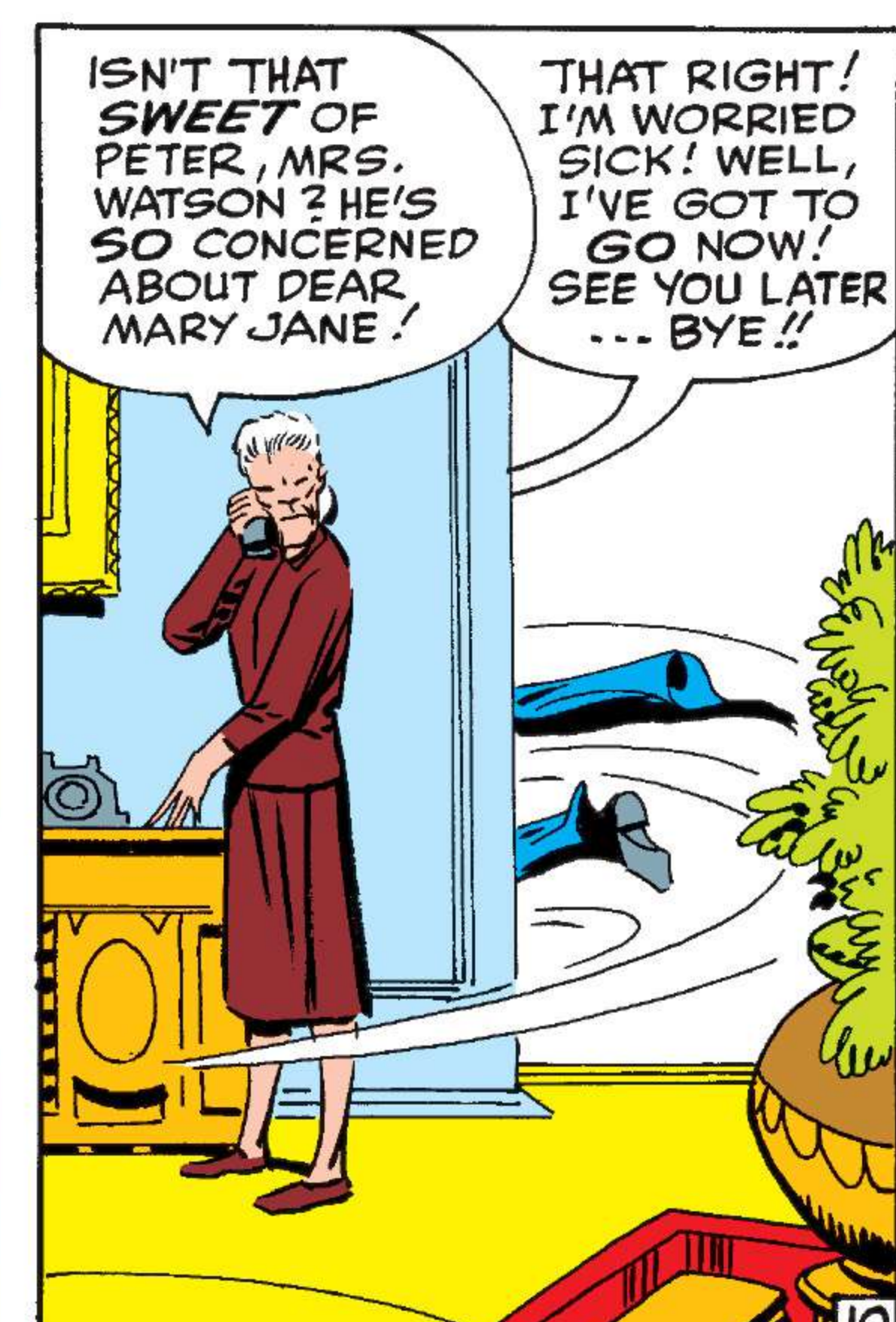
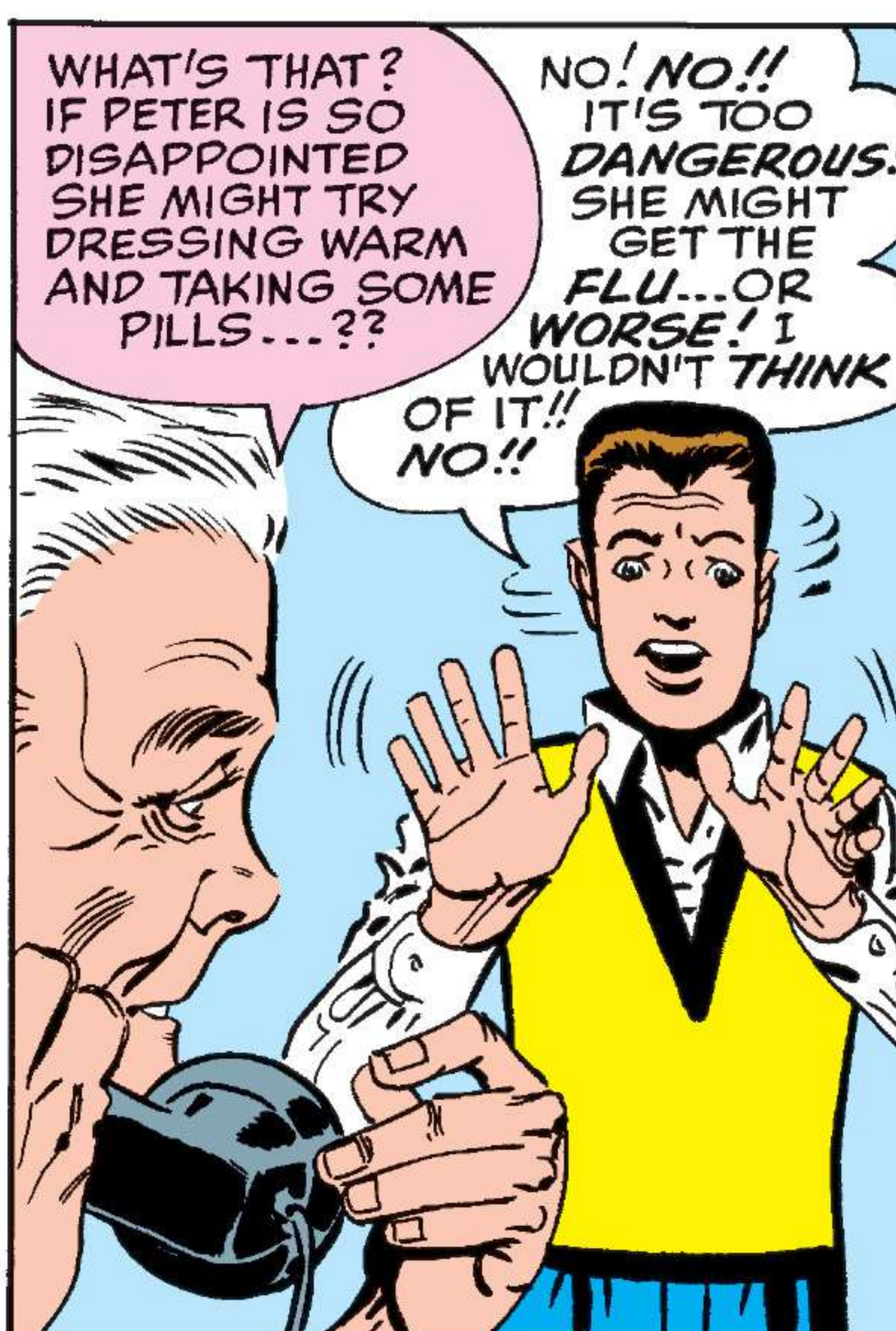
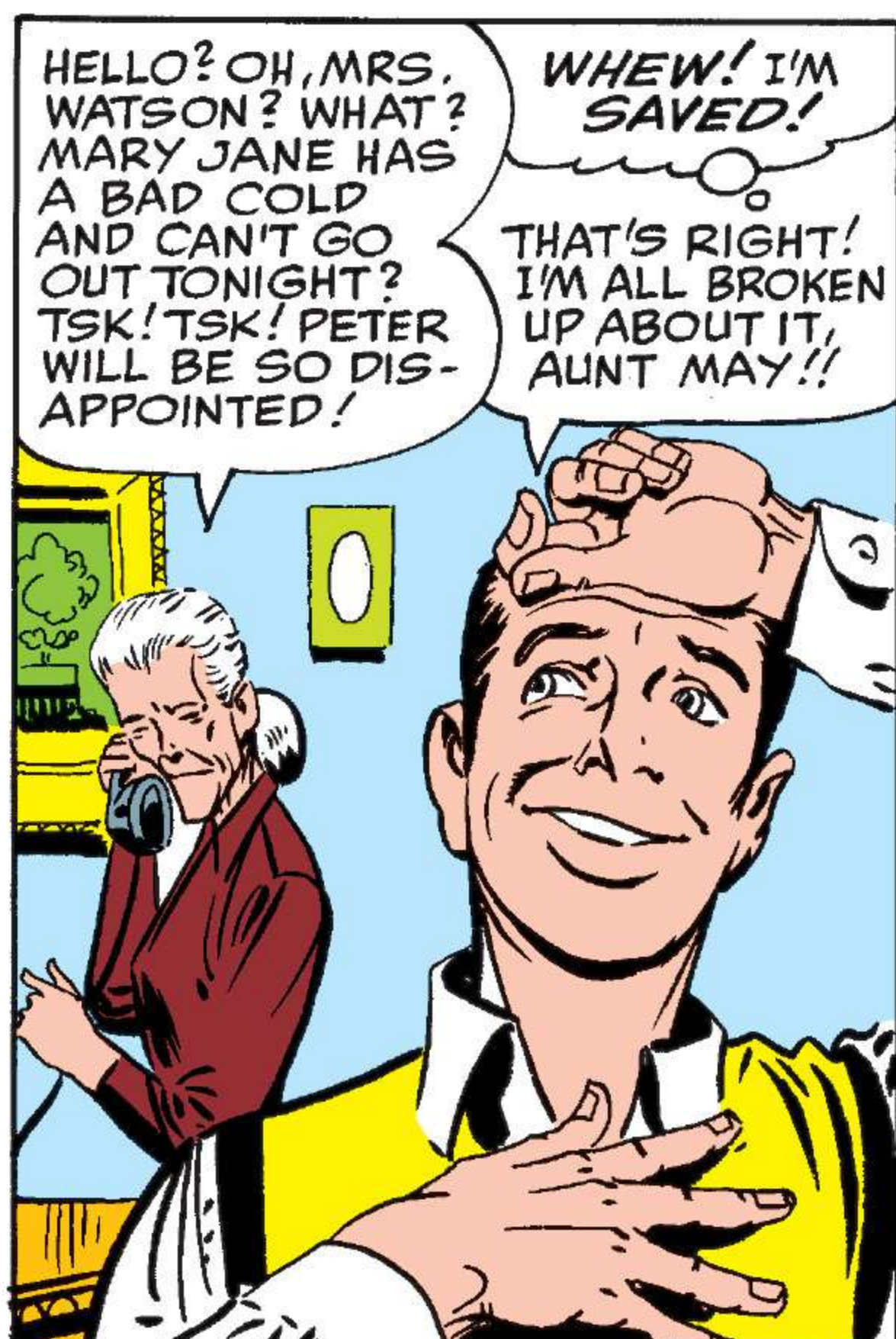
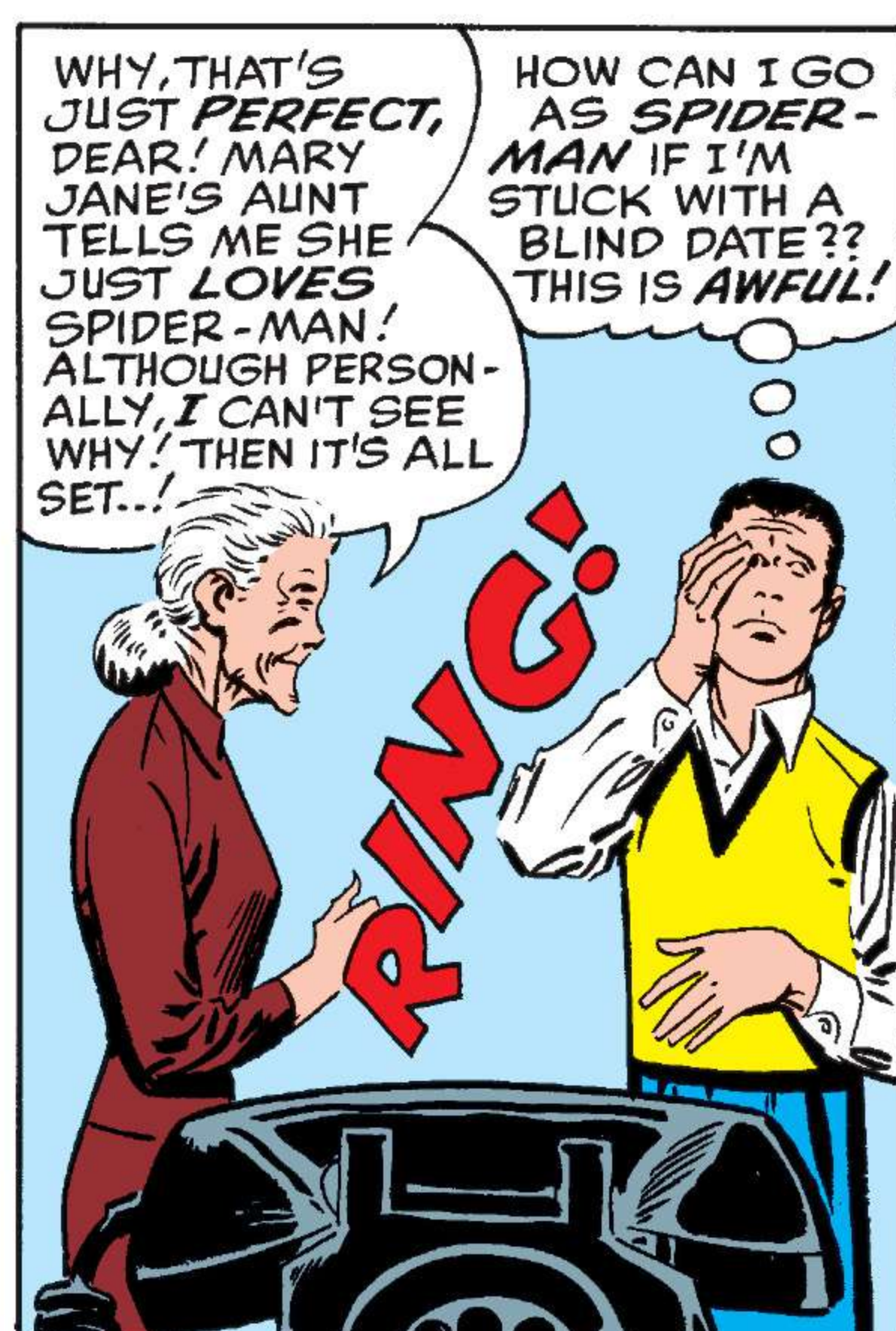
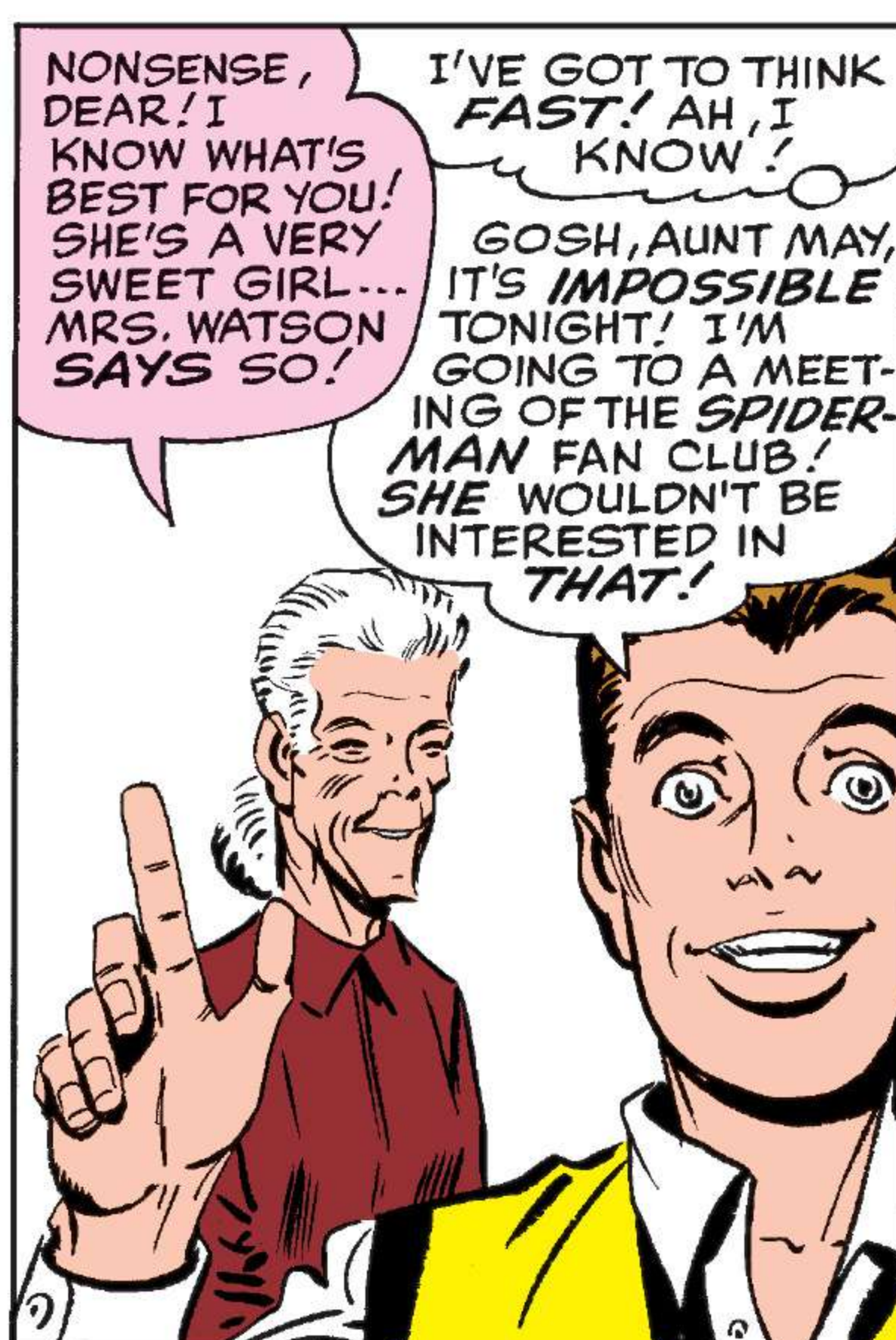
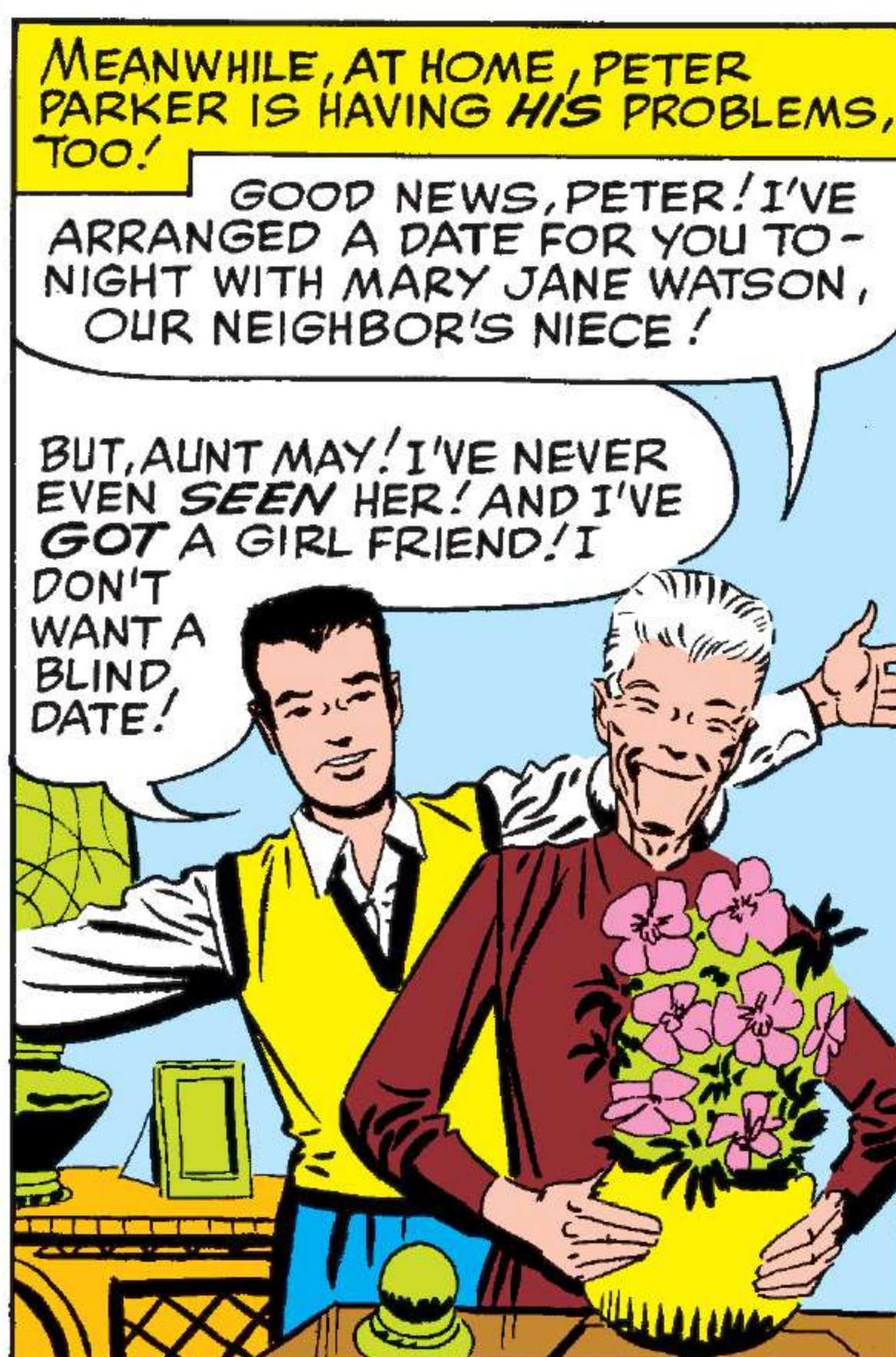
BOY! THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY! HEY! DID YOU GET HIS AUTO-GRAPH, TOO?

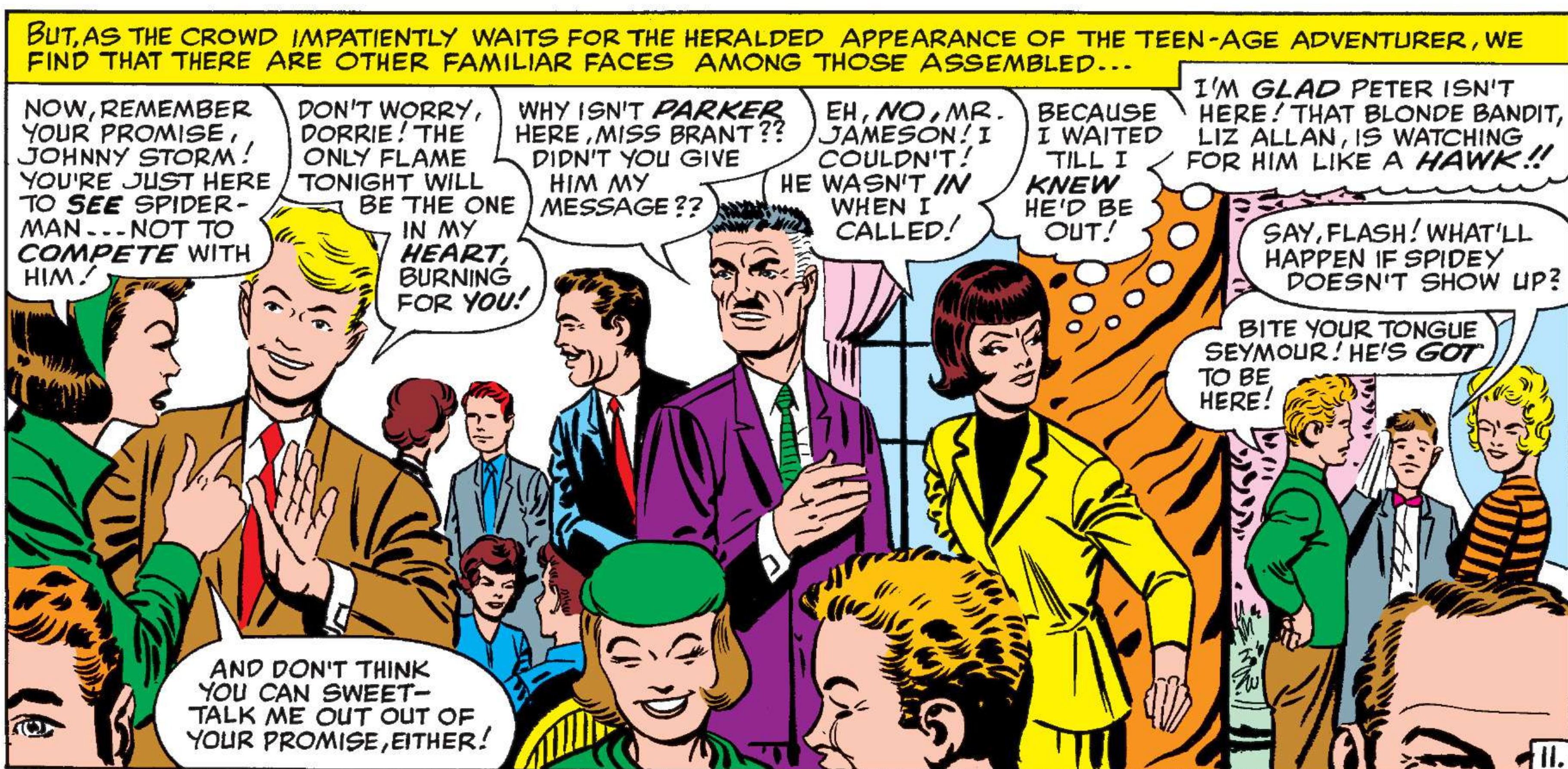
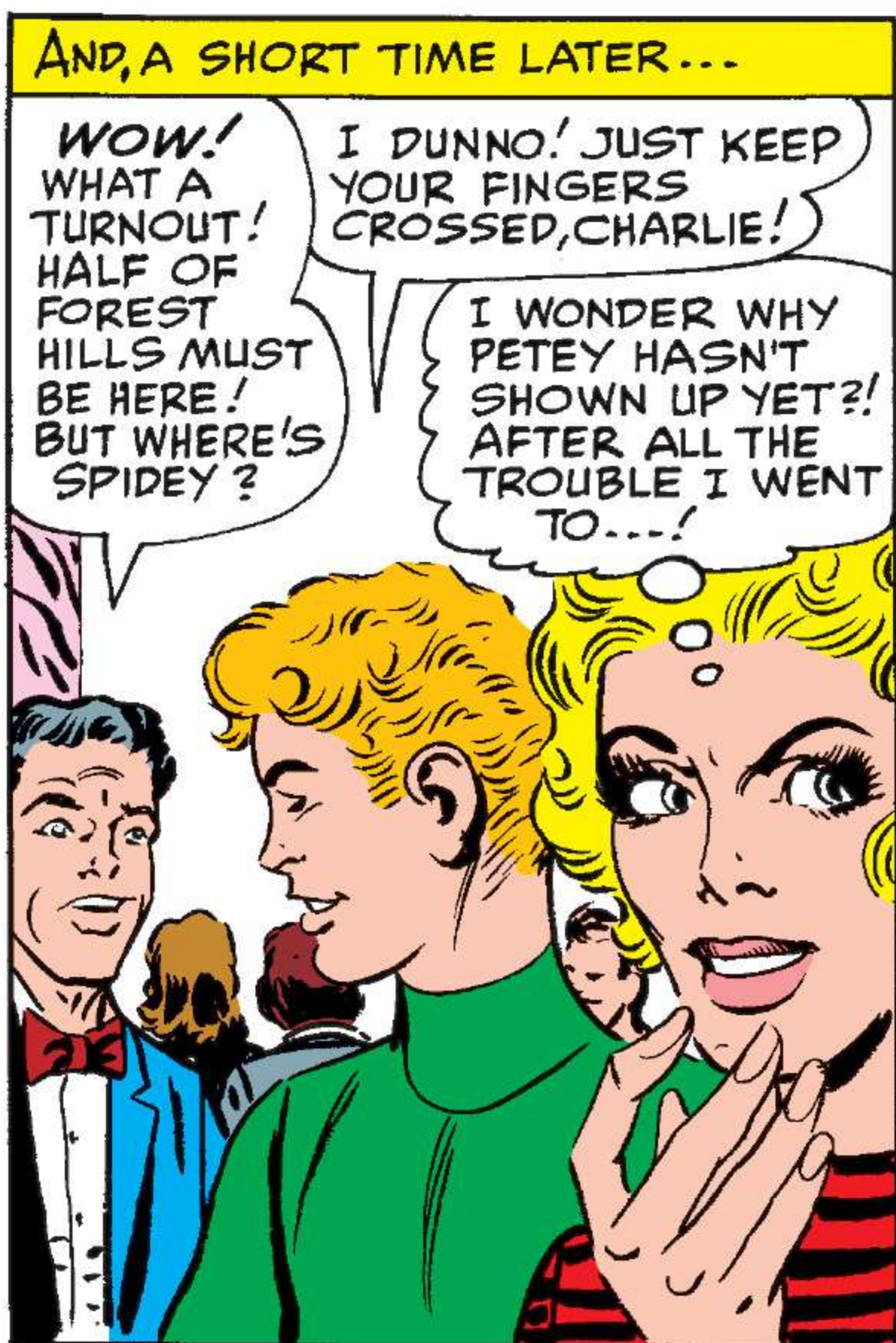
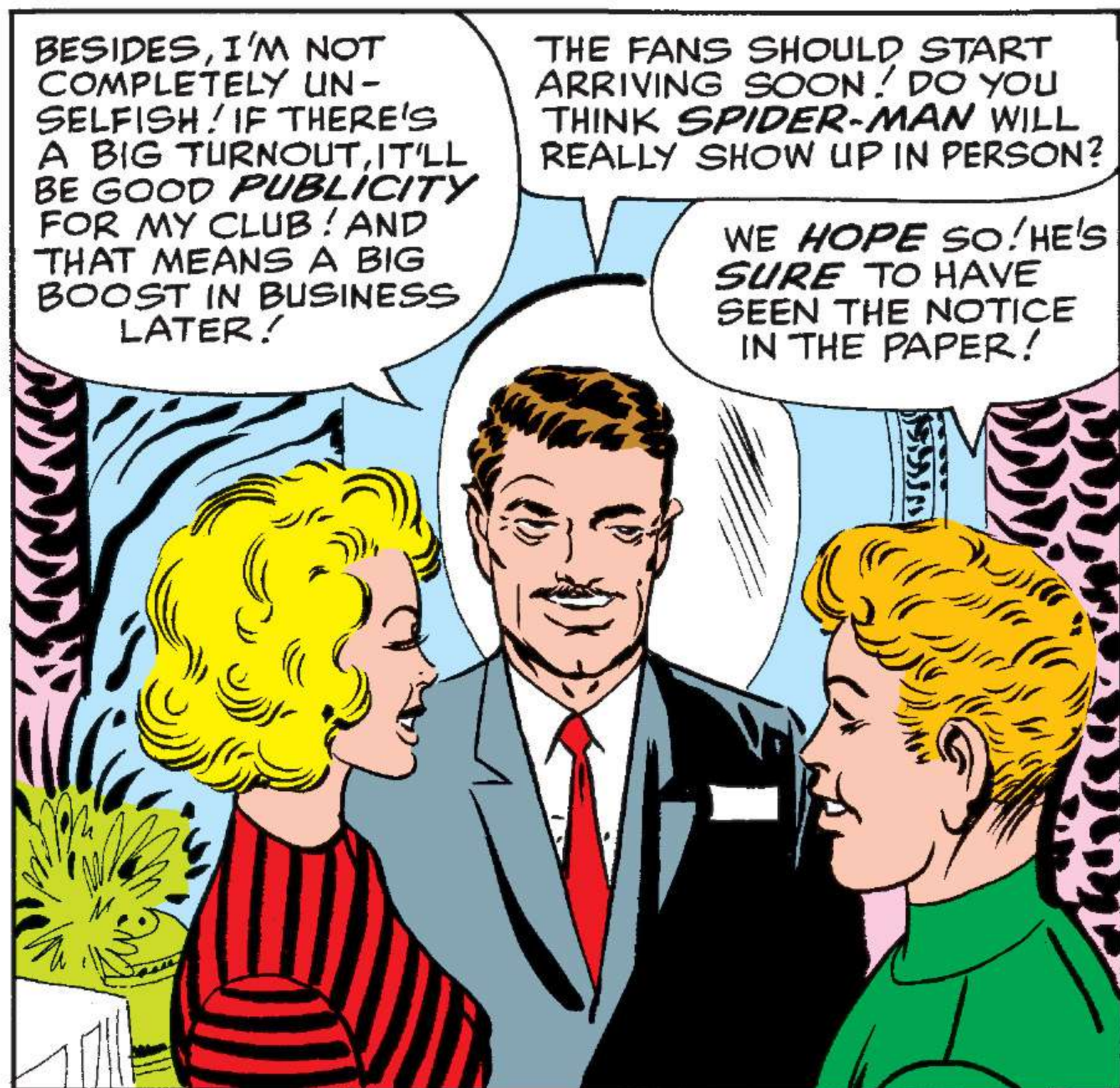
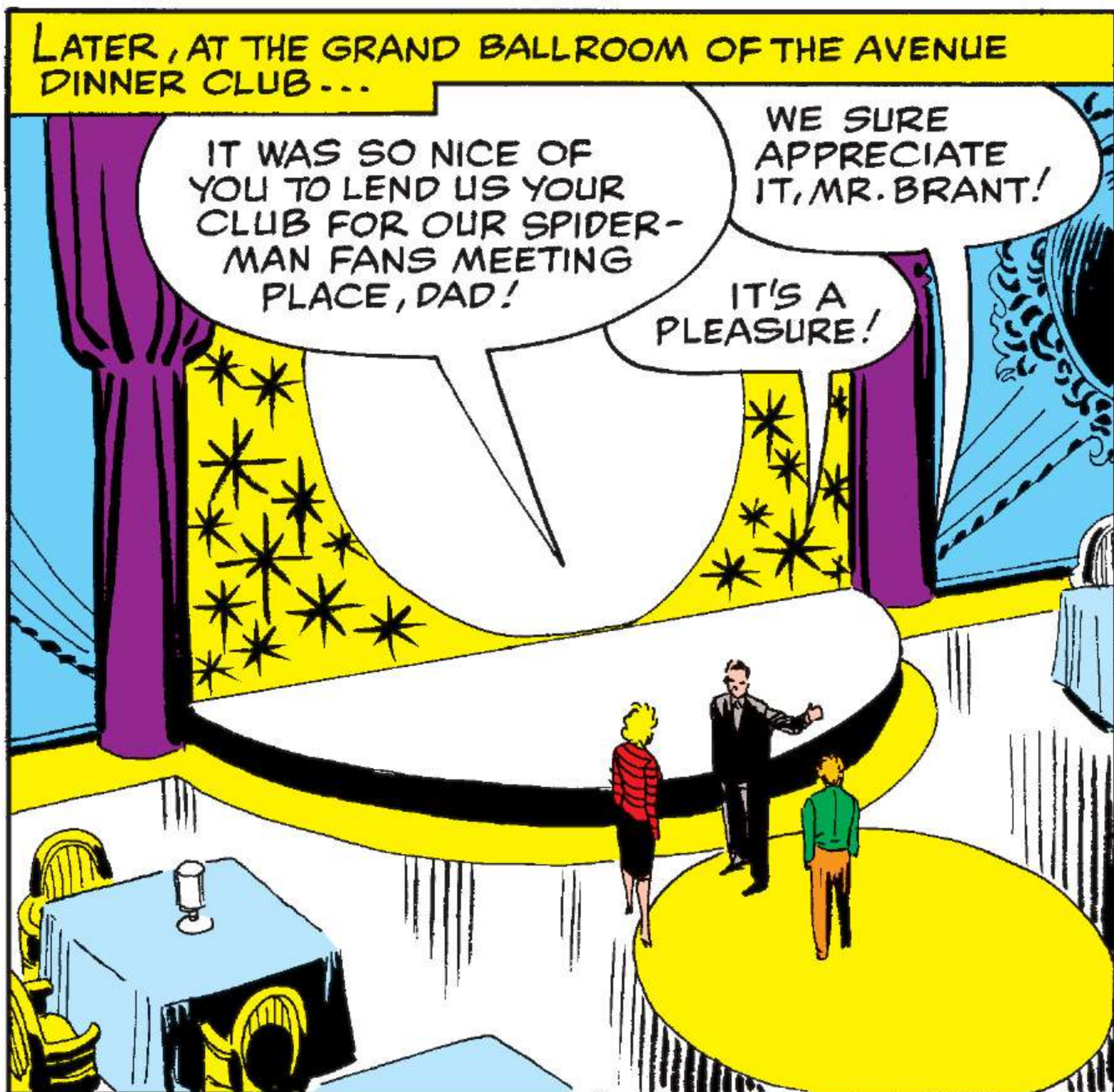
I MIGHT AS WELL HAVE SOME FUN WITH THIS KID...

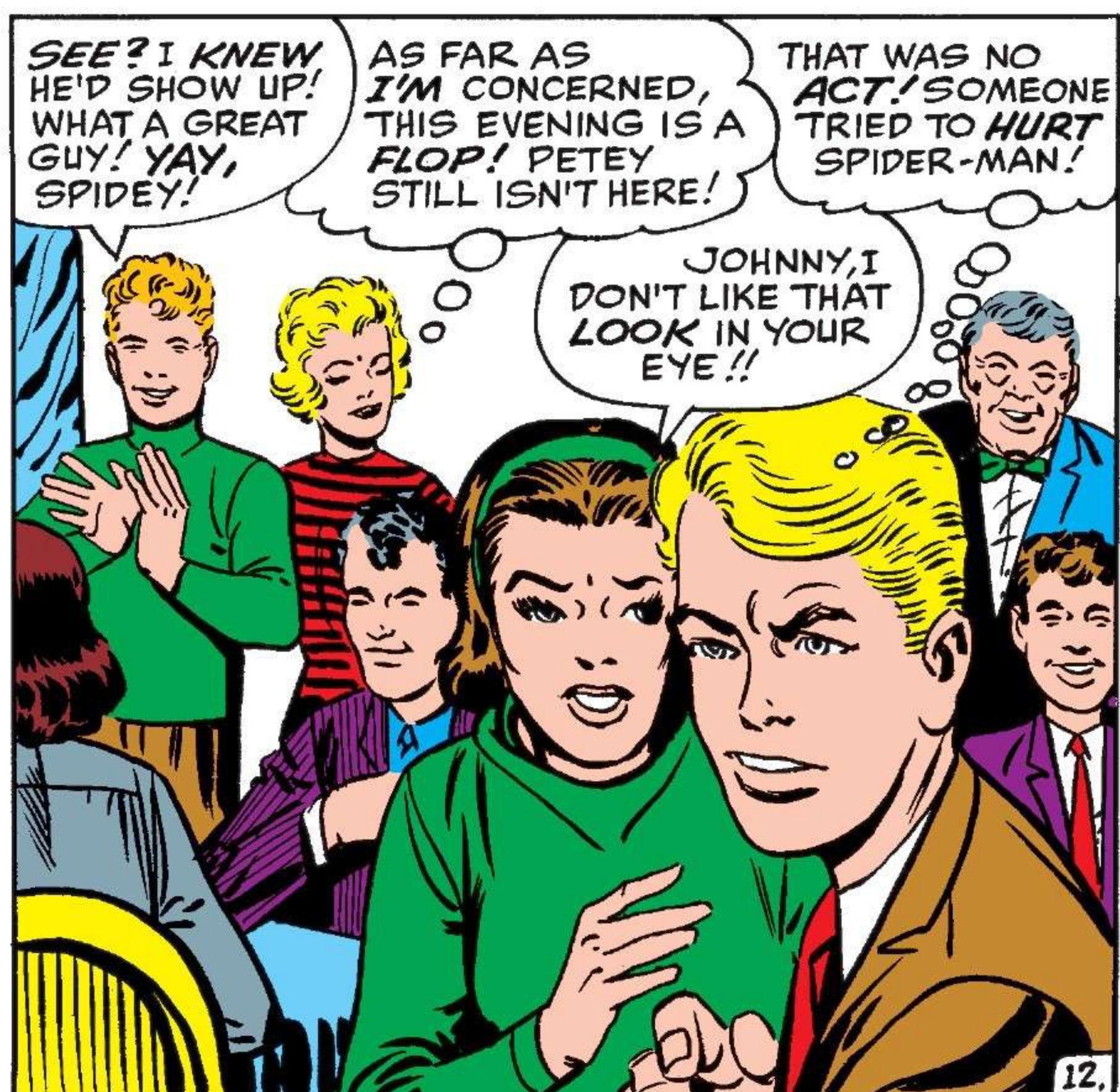
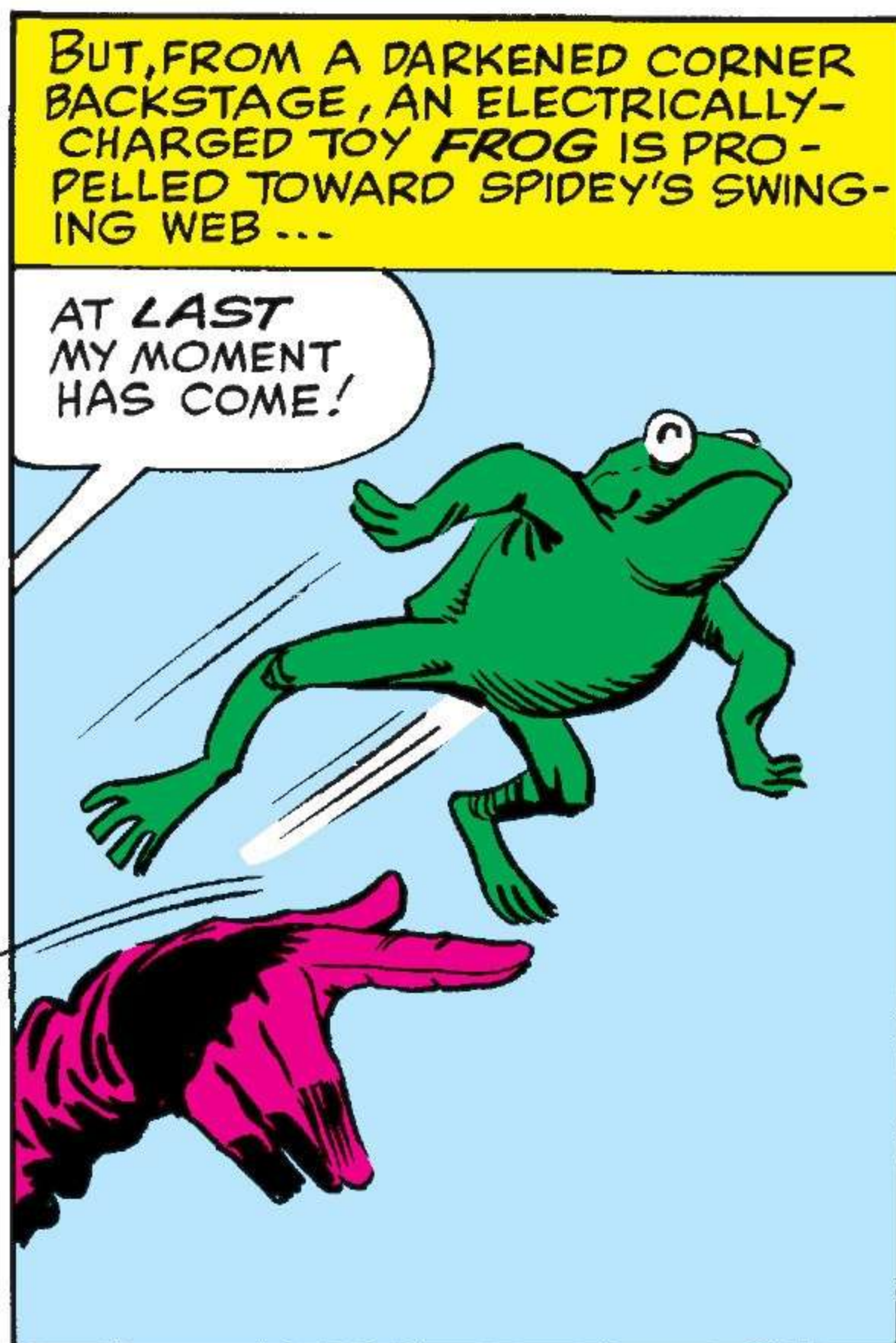
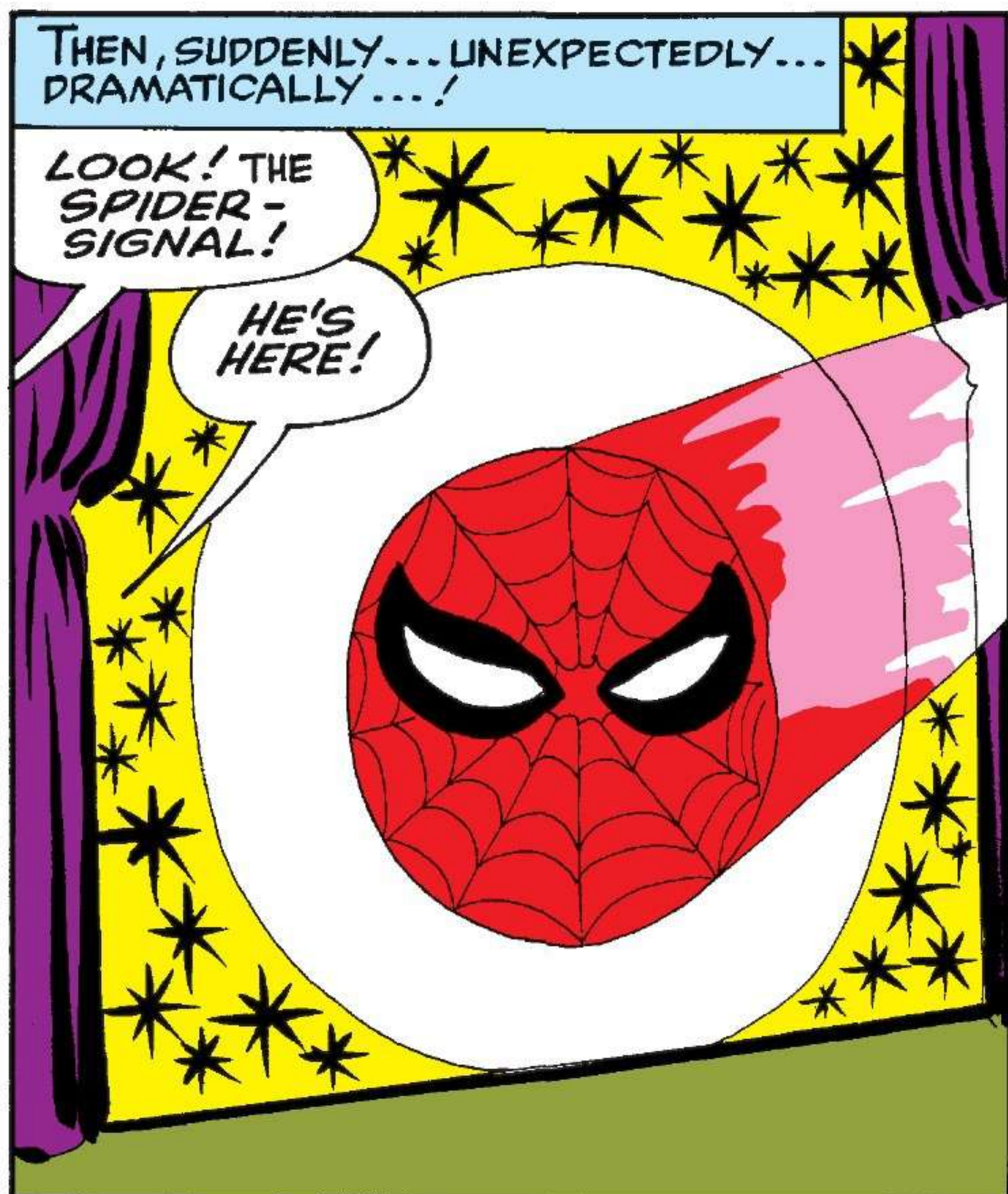
NO! THIS IS SPIDER-MAN'S! WOULD YOU LIKE TO SWAP?

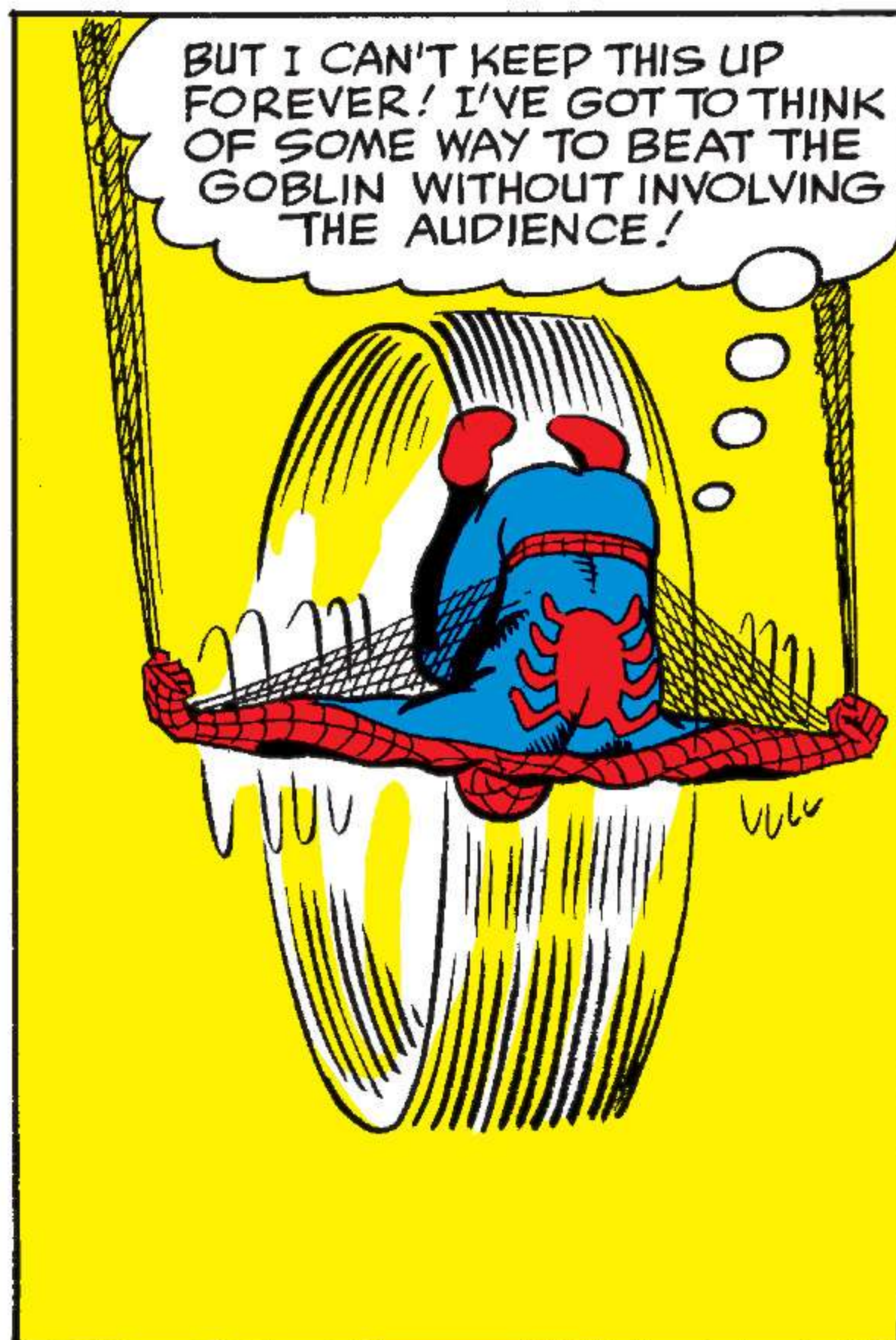
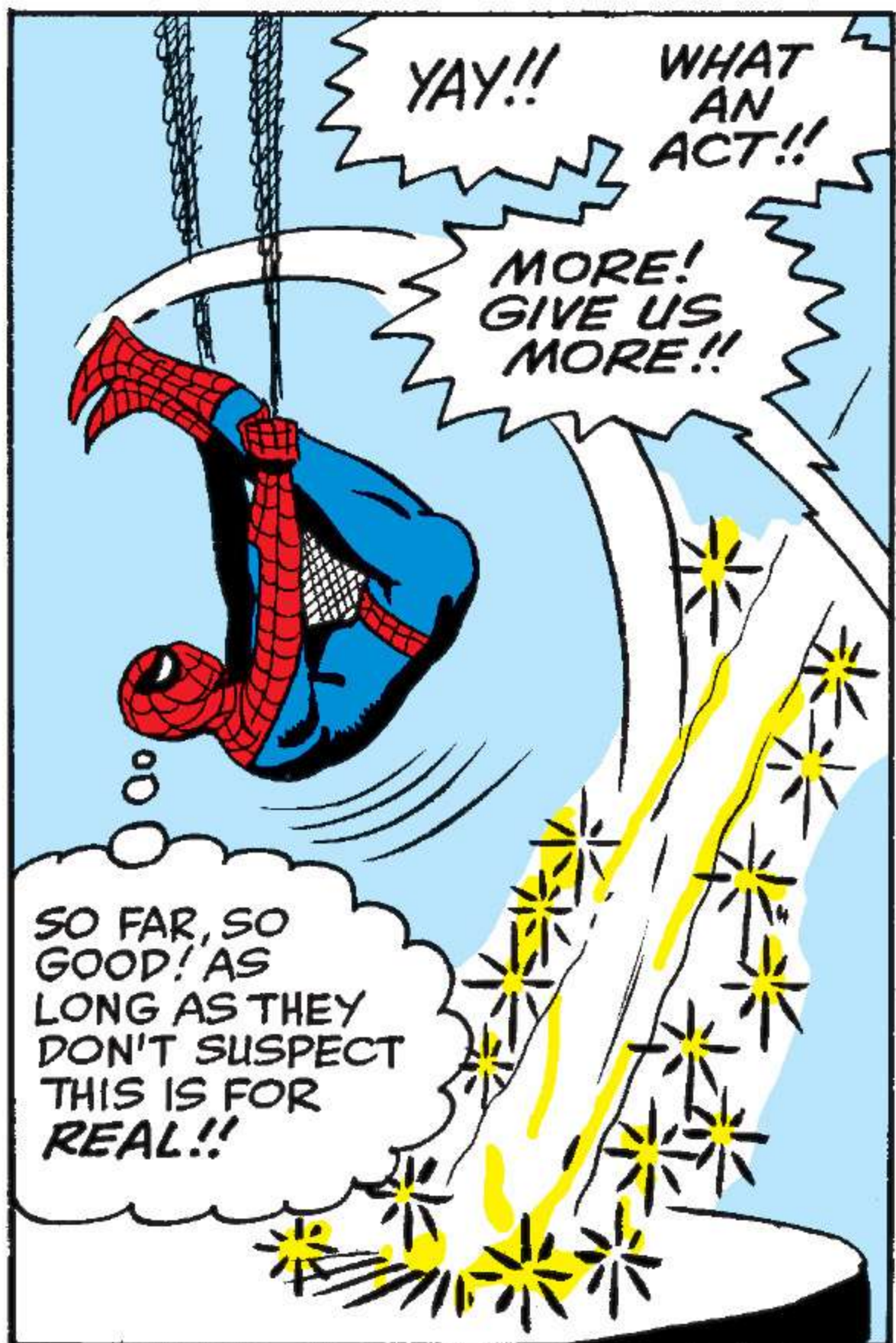
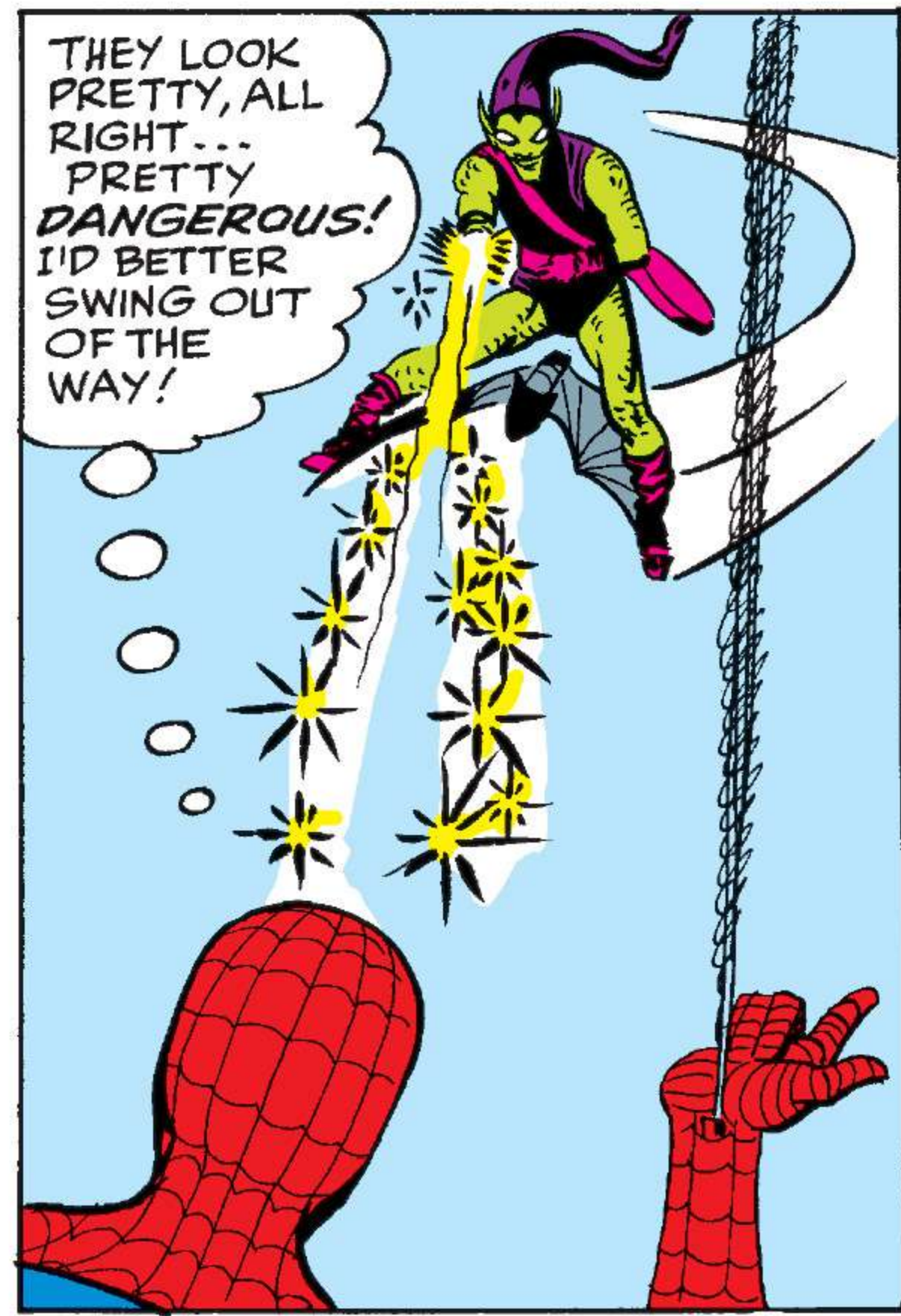
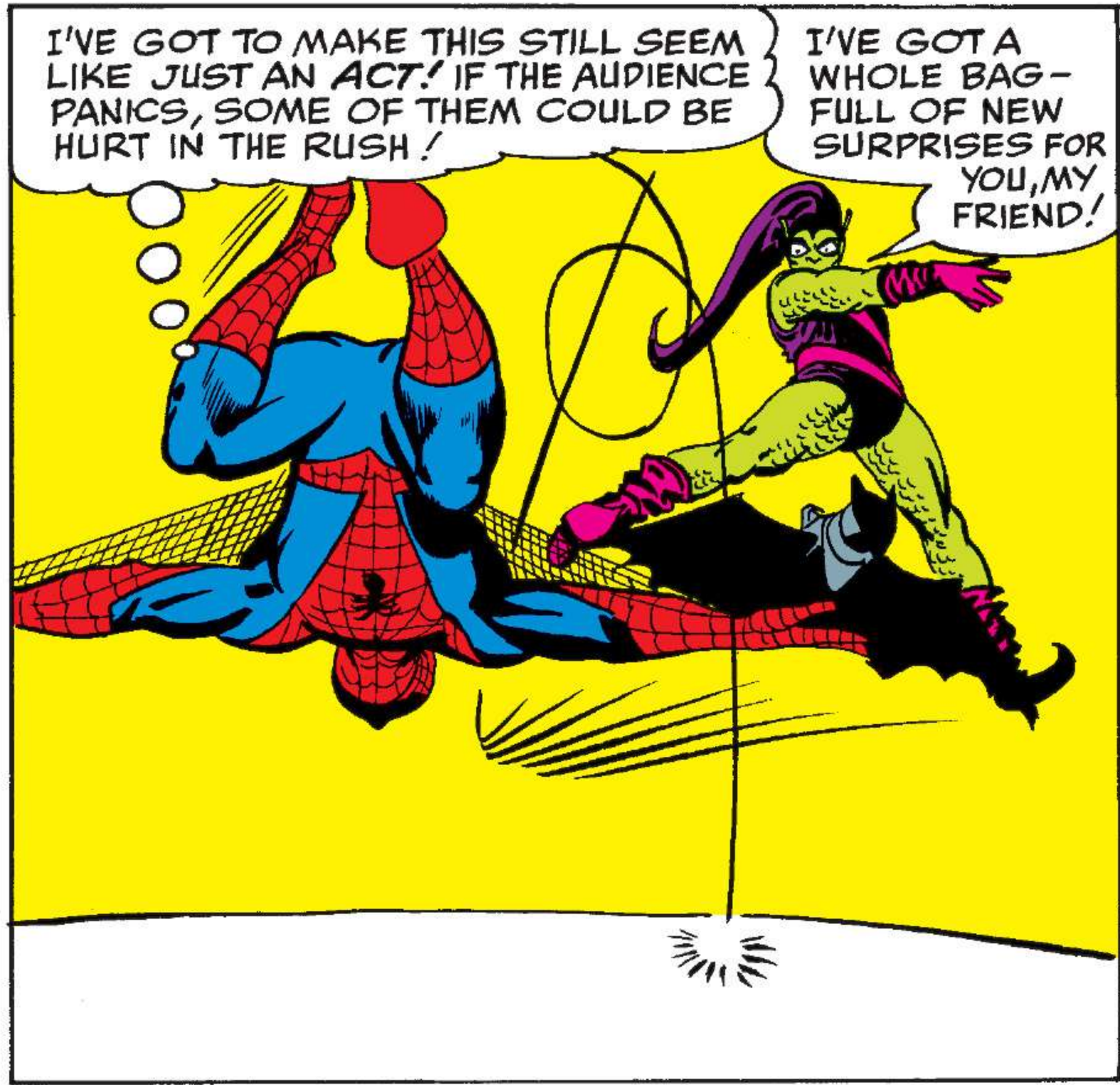
WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM... A NUT?!

OH, WELL! YOU CAN'T WIN THEM ALL!

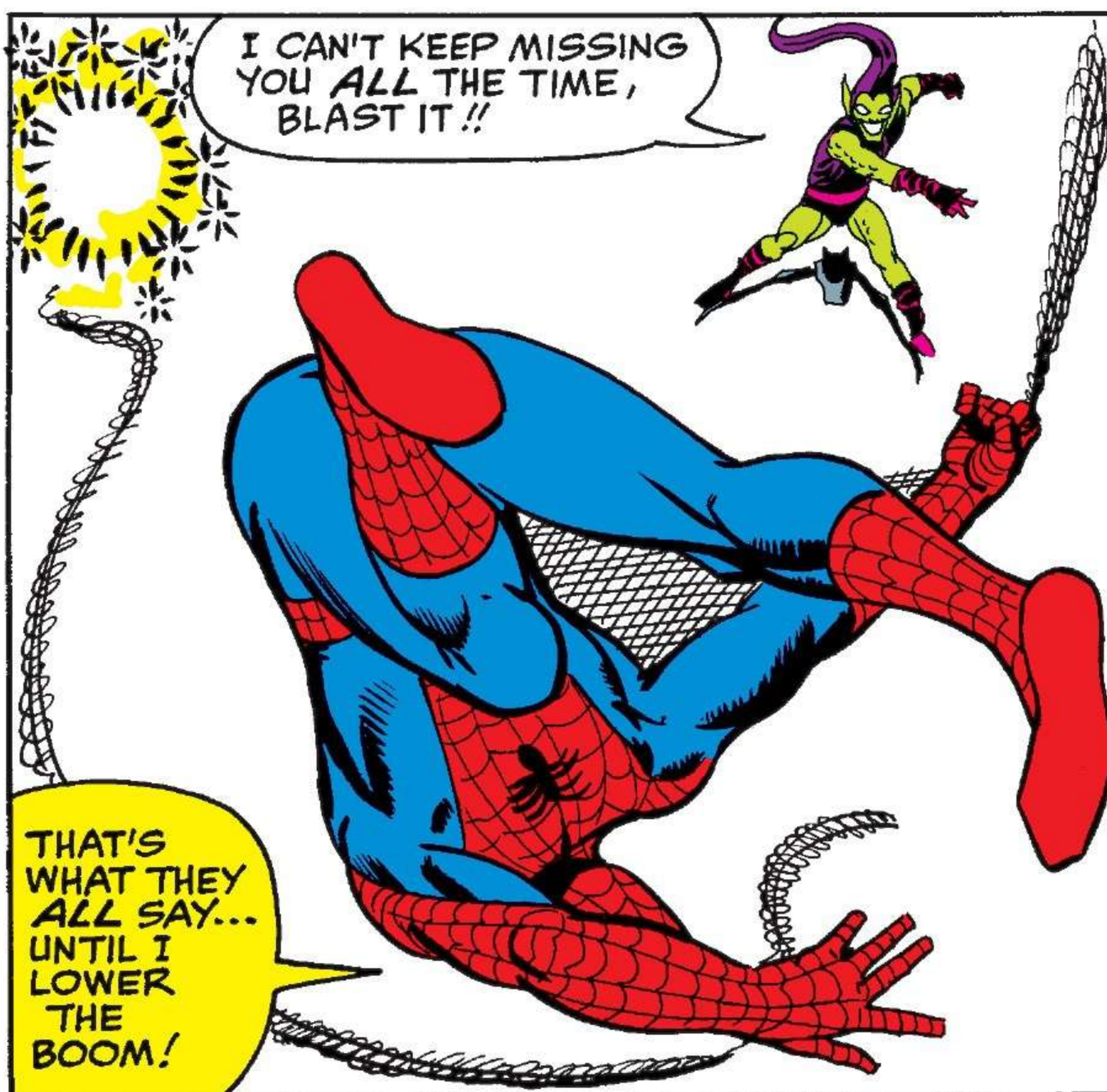
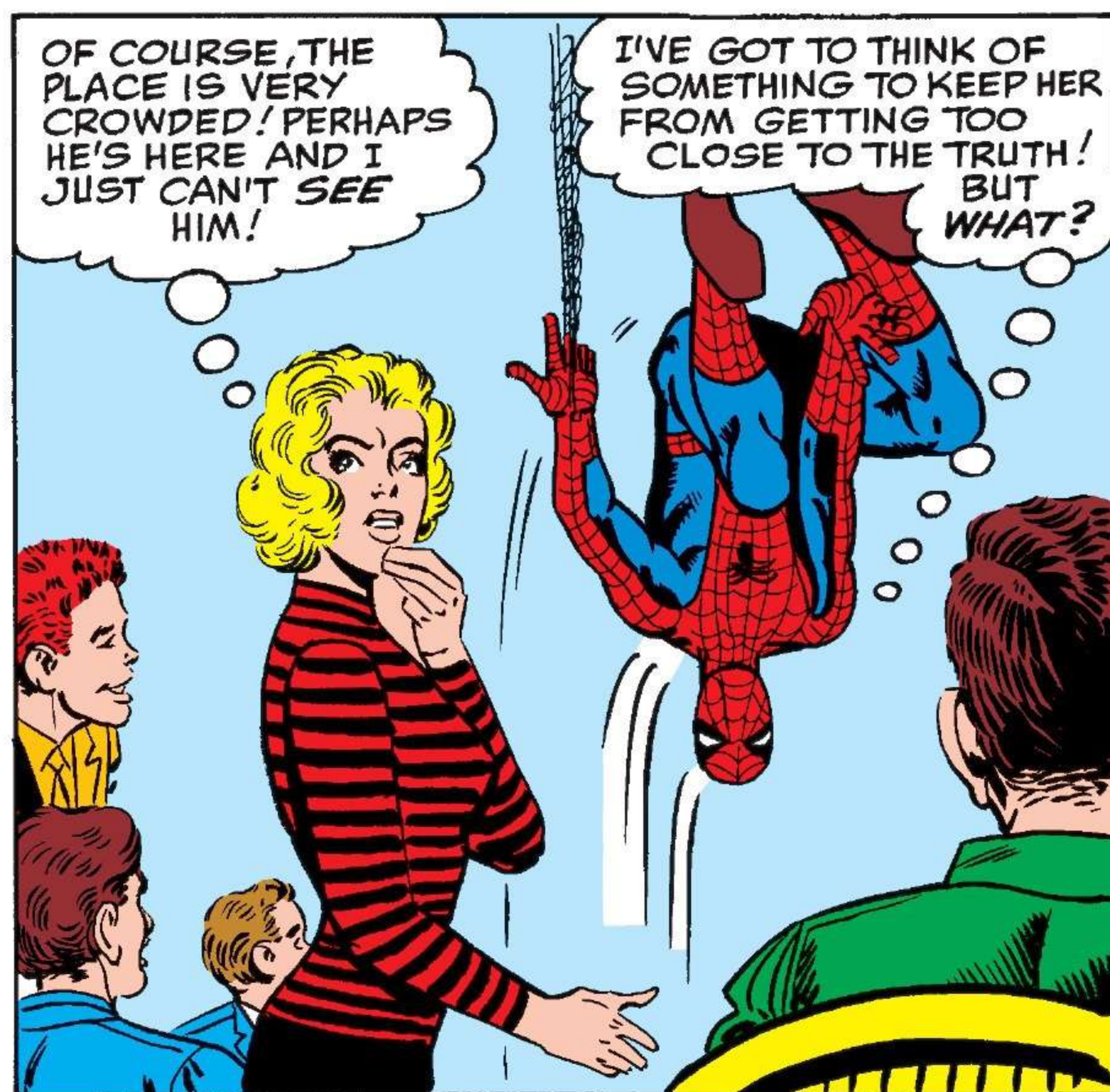
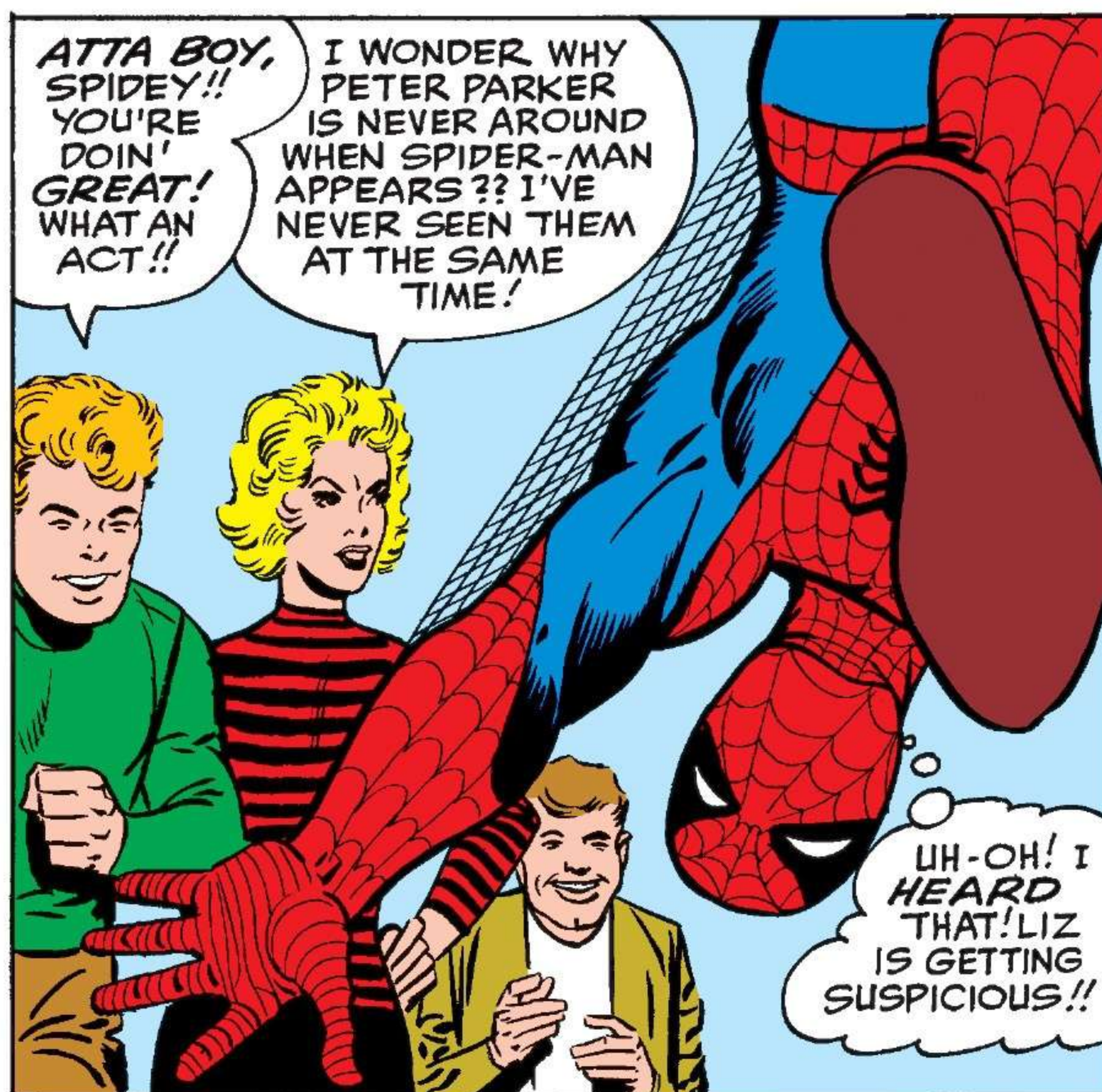












BUT, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE SHARP-EYED JOHNNY STORM NOTICES THE DANGEROUS GLINT OF THREE GUN BARRELS IN THE BALCONY ABOVE...

DORRIE, WAIT HERE! I'VE GOT TO LEAVE YOU FOR A FEW MINUTES...

JOHNNY STORM! YOU PROMISED ME YOU WOULDN'T TRY TO GET INTO THE ACT! IF YOU DON'T SIT RIGHT DOWN AGAIN...!

I CAN'T! THIS LOOKS SERIOUS! STAY BACK!

C'MON! NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO BREAK INTO THE CASHIER'S SAFE UP HERE, WHILE EVERYONE'S WATCHIN' THOSE CLOWNS DOWN BELOW!

I'D LIKE TO FINISH OFF THAT CRUMMY SPIDER-MAN FIRST!

SUDDENLY, A DRAMATIC CRY RINGS OUT, AS A FLAMING FLYING FIGURE BLAZES UPWARD...

FLAME ON!

DORRIE WILL BE MAD AS A HORNET, BUT I'VE JUST GOT TO DO THIS!

LOOK! IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH!

BUT, WHILE STREAKING TOWARDS THE THREE GUNMEN, THE TORCH UNWITTINGLY BLAZES THROUGH SPIDEY'S WEBBING, SPOILING OUR HERO'S PLAN TO TRAP THE GREEN GOBLIN!

GANGWAY, WEB-HEAD!

THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE! HE ALMOST HAD ME!!

THE TORCH! HE SPOILED EVERY-THING!!

WHO INVITED THAT HUMAN MATCHSTICK TO BUTT IN??!

AW, CLAM UP, FLASH! ARE YOU TRYIN' TO SPOIL ALL THE FUN??

GET LOST, TORCH! THIS IS A PRIVATE PARTY!!

YAY, TORCH! GIVE IT TO 'EM, YOU OL' FIRE-EATER!!

THE TORCH SPOTTED US! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

THIS DOES IT!! I'M TAKIN' THE PLEDGE! I'M GOIN' STRAIGHT!

NOT REALIZING WHY THE HUMAN TORCH HAS ENTERED THE SCENE, THE GREEN GOBLIN ANGRILY TURNS HIS ATTENTION TOWARDS THE FIERY NEWCOMER...

THE HUMAN TORCH, EH? WELL, I'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO INTERFERE WITH YOUR BETTERS!

SPIDER-MAN'S GONE! I WONDER WHERE..?

FOR THE ANSWER TO THE TORCH'S UNSPOKEN QUESTION, LET'S TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A YOUTH WHO BREATHLESSLY RACES TOWARDS THE AUDIENCE...



SO FAR, SO GOOD! NOW TO PUT IN A BRIEF APPEARANCE AS PETER PARKER!

HI, LIZ! I **THOUGHT** I SAW YOU FROM ACROSS THE ROOM!

OH, PETEY! THEN YOU **WERE** HERE! I'M **SO GLAD!**

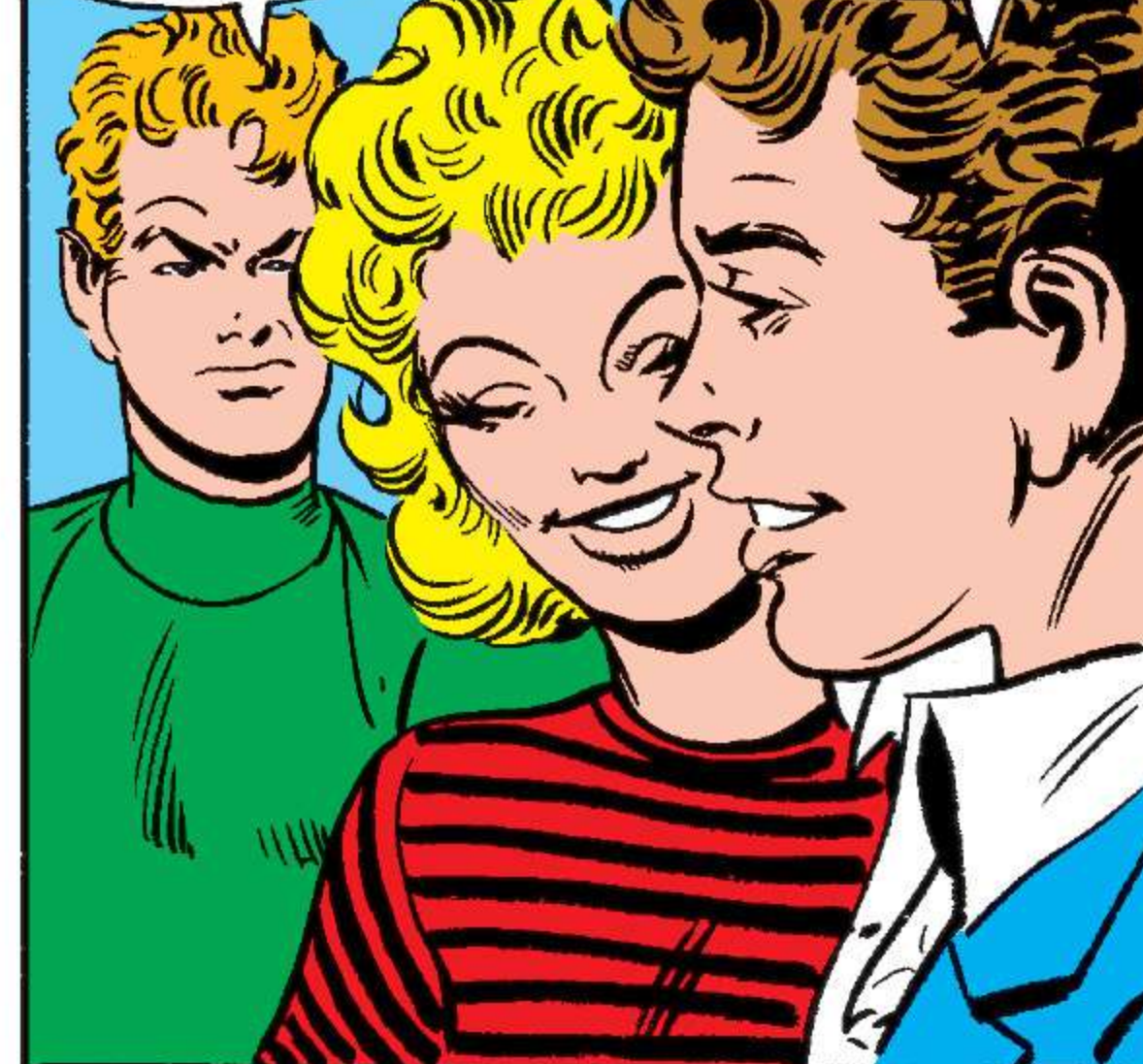
FIRST THE PESTY TORCH, AND NOW PUNY PARKER! THIS PLACE IS FILLING UP WITH A BUNCH OF DEAD-HEADS!



PETEY, I'M **SURE** I CAN TALK FLASH INTO LETTING YOU JOIN HIS **SPIDER-MAN FAN CLUB!**

AW, C'MON, LIZ! IF WE ACCEPT HIM, WE'LL HAVE TO ACCEPT **ANYBODY!**

FORGET IT, KIDS! I MAY START MY OWN CLUB... FOR THE **GREEN GOBLIN!**



ECHH! THAT CREEP IS AS FUNNY AS A SECOND-HAND CRUTCH!

YOU'VE **SUCH** A CUTE SENSE OF HUMOR, PETEY! BUT HOW DID YOUR **HAIR** GET SO MUSSSED?

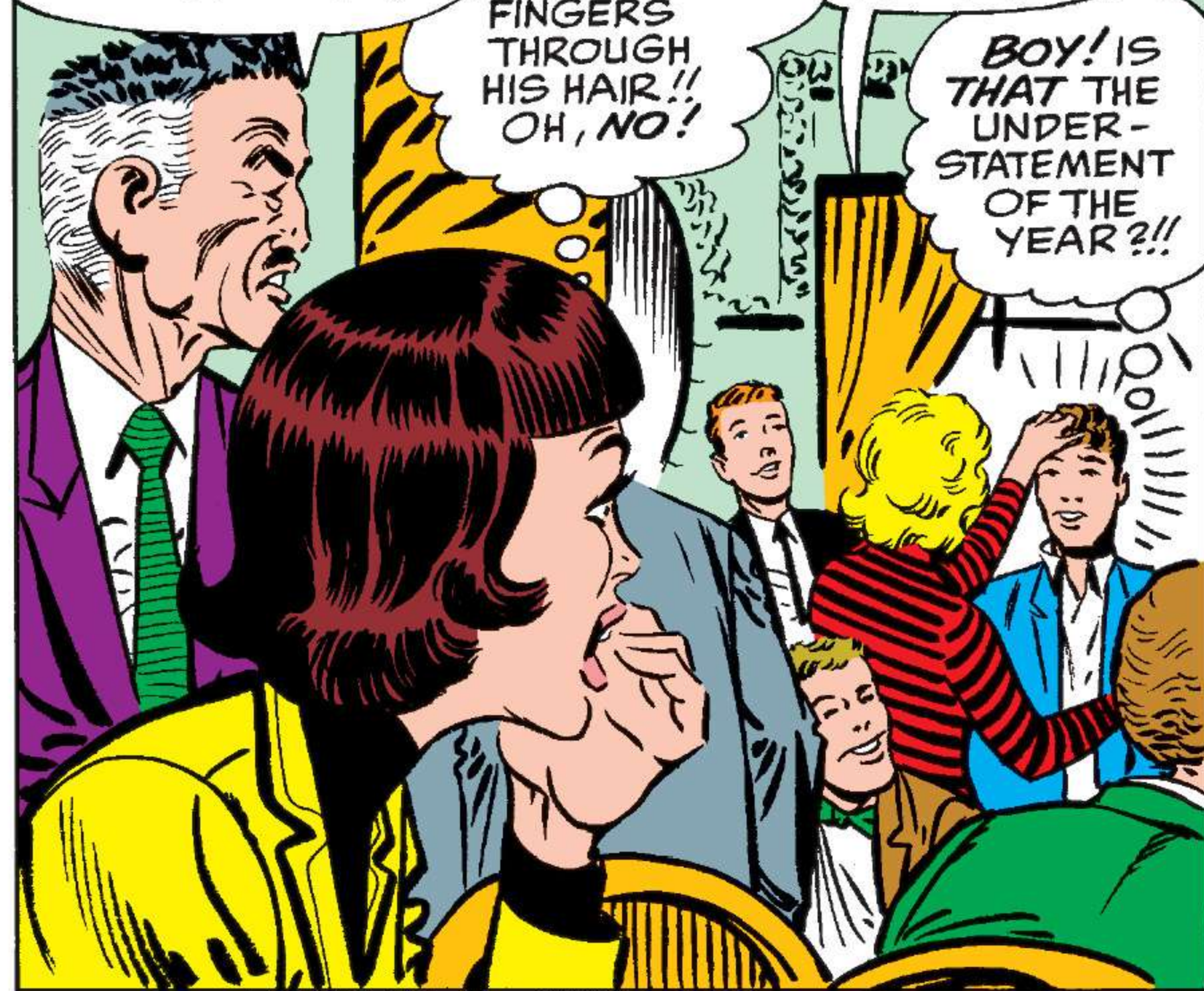
IT... EH... IT'S PRETTY **WINDY** ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM!



LOOK! PARKER DID COME, AFTER ALL!! BUT WHERE'S HIS **CAMERA?**

PETER... HERE WITH **LIZ!** SHE'S RUNNING HER FINGERS THROUGH HIS HAIR!! OH, **NO!**

YOU LOOK **PALE**, PETEY! IS ANYTHING **WRONG?**



MEANWHILE, HIGH ABOVE EVERYONE'S HEADS, THE "SHOW" GOES ON!



I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THE TORCH QUICKLY, SO I CAN TURN MY ATTENTION TO SPIDER-MAN!

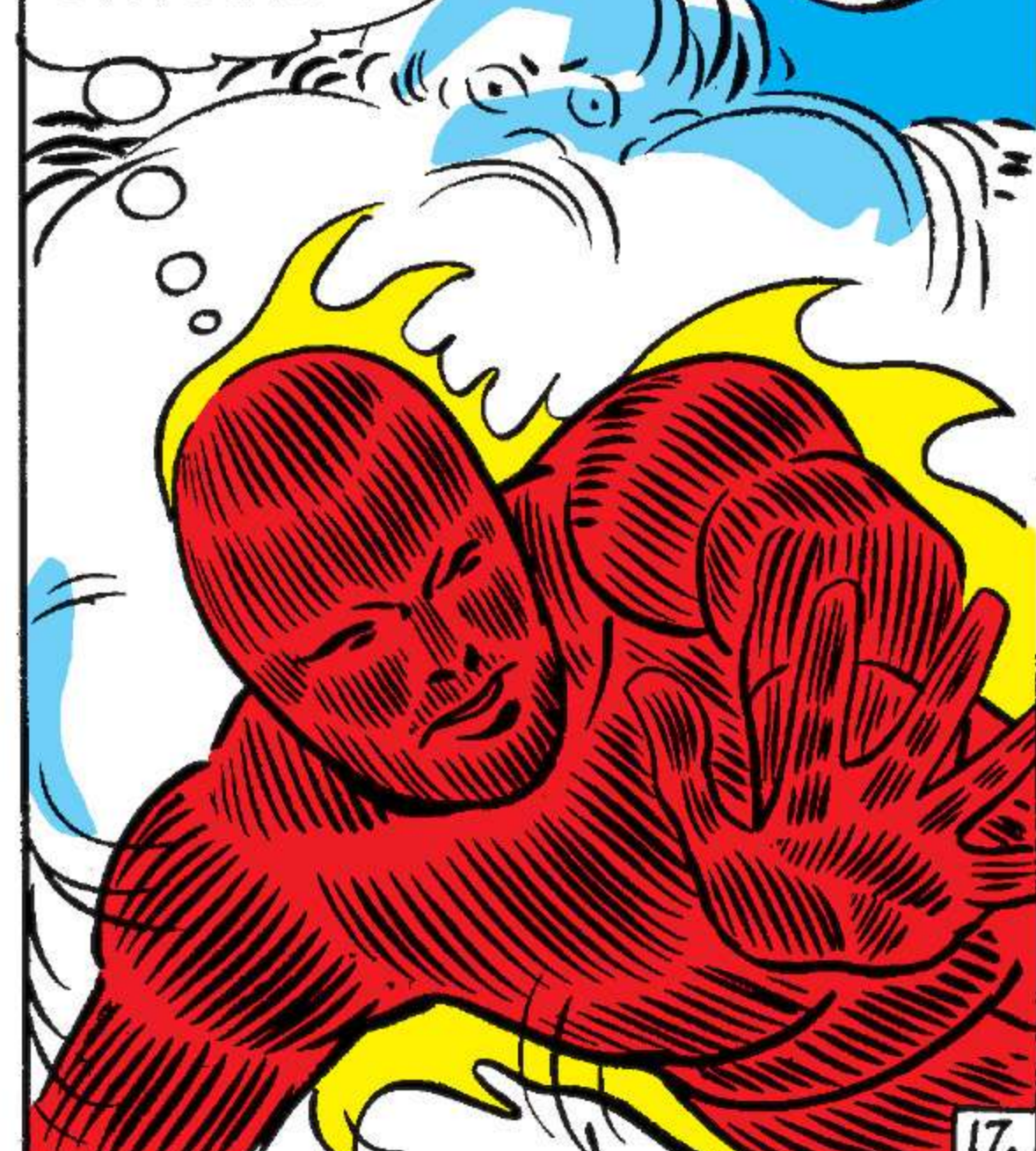
THIS LITTLE "GOBLIN SURPRISE" OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK!

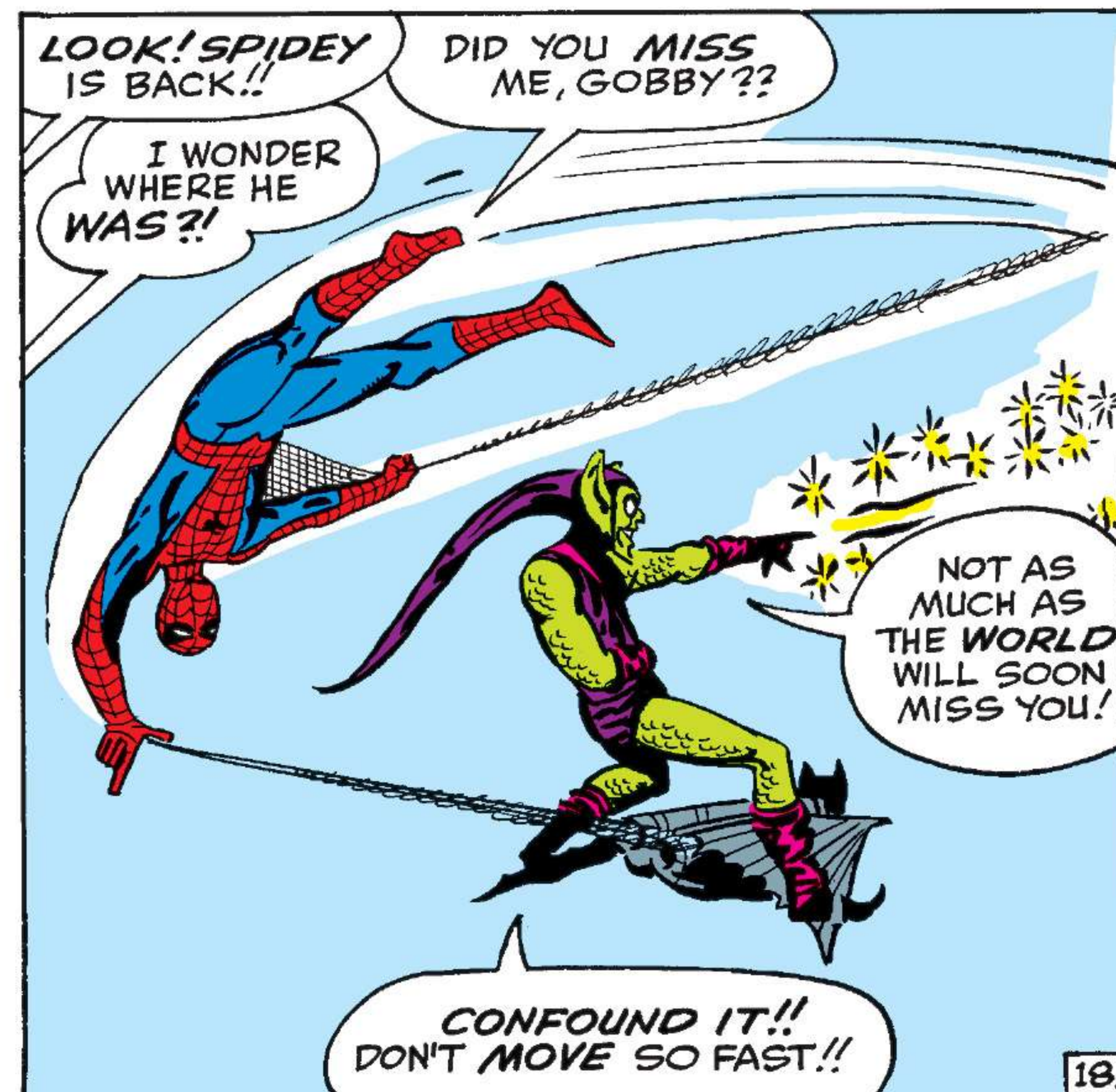
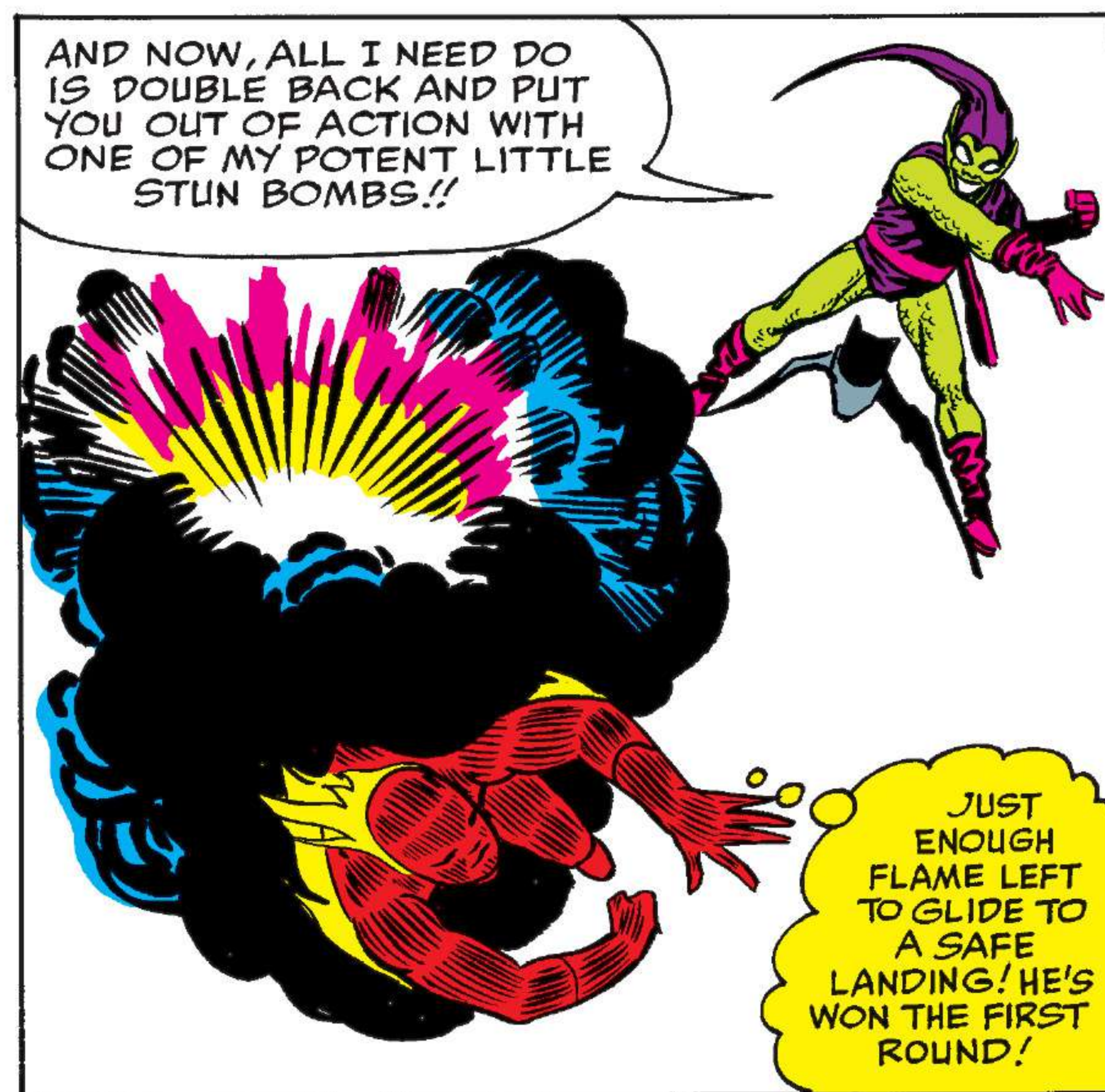
WHATEVER HE TOSSED AT ME, IT FORMED AN AIR-TIGHT CLOUD SEAL, CUTTING OFF MY AIR! IT'LL PUT MY **FLAME** OUT!

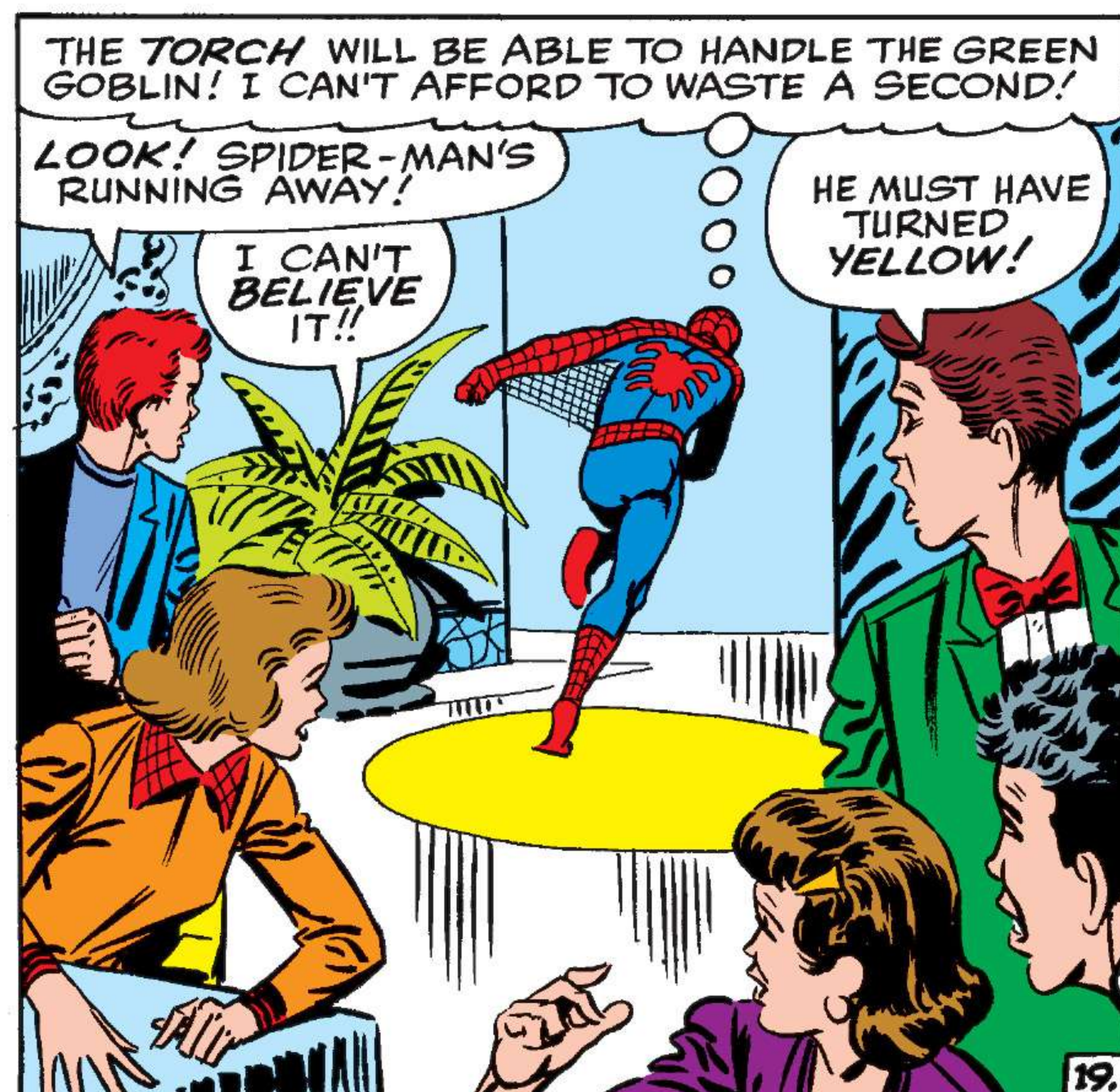
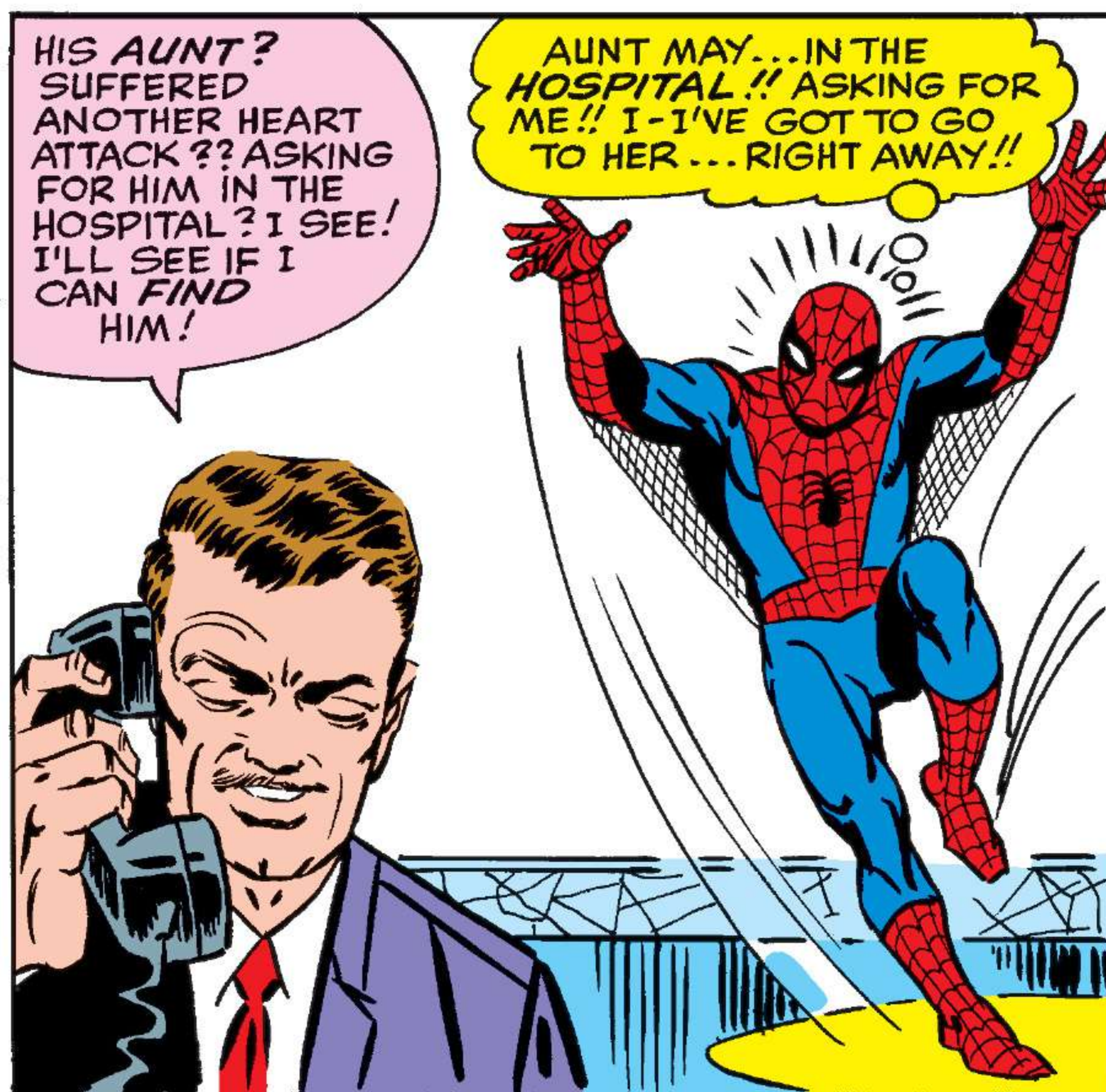
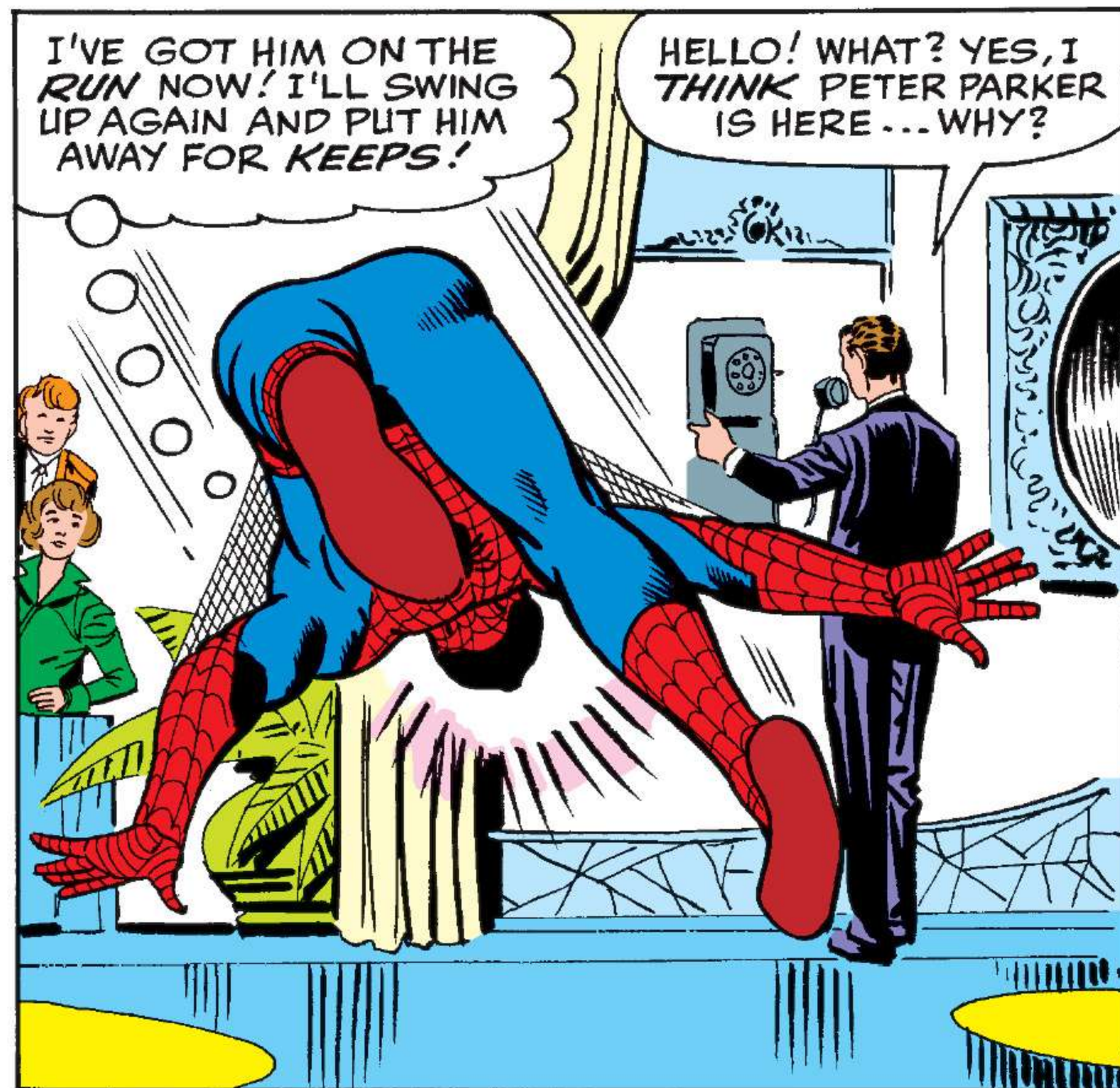
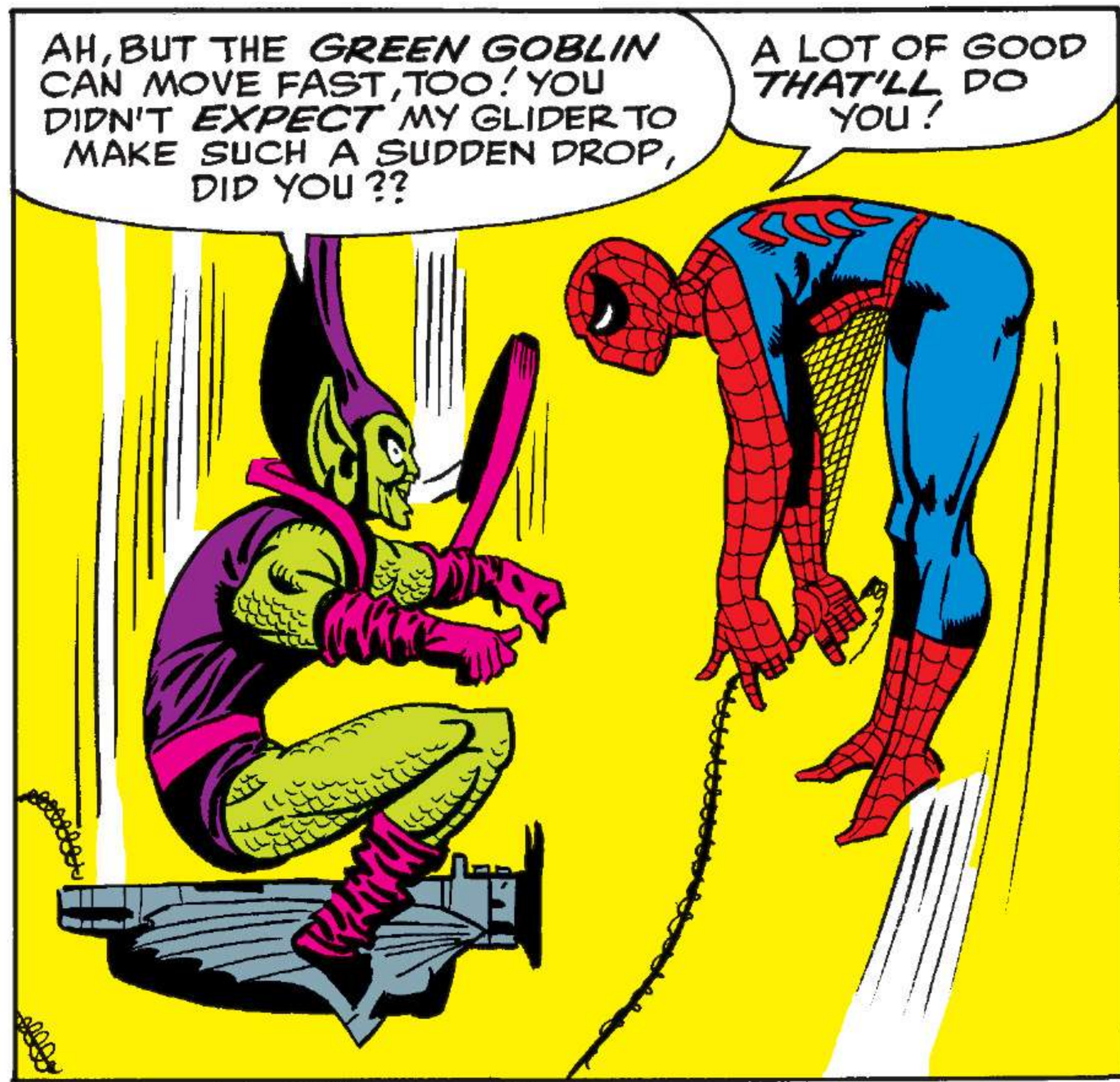
...UNLESS I INCREASE MY FLAME TO NEAR **NOVA INTENSITY...** BUT THAT MIGHT CAUSE A FIRE IN HERE, INJURING INNOCENT PEOPLE!

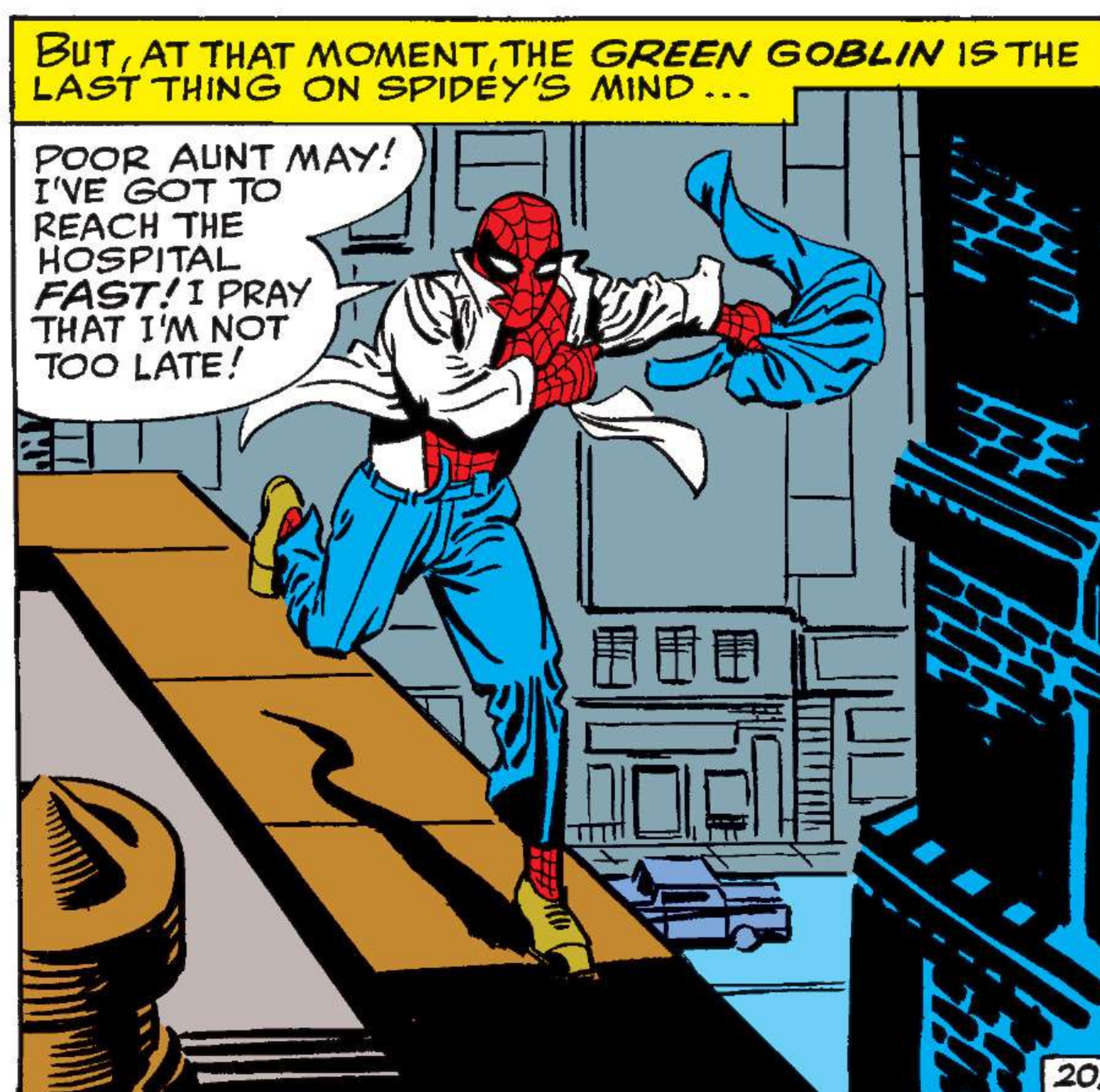
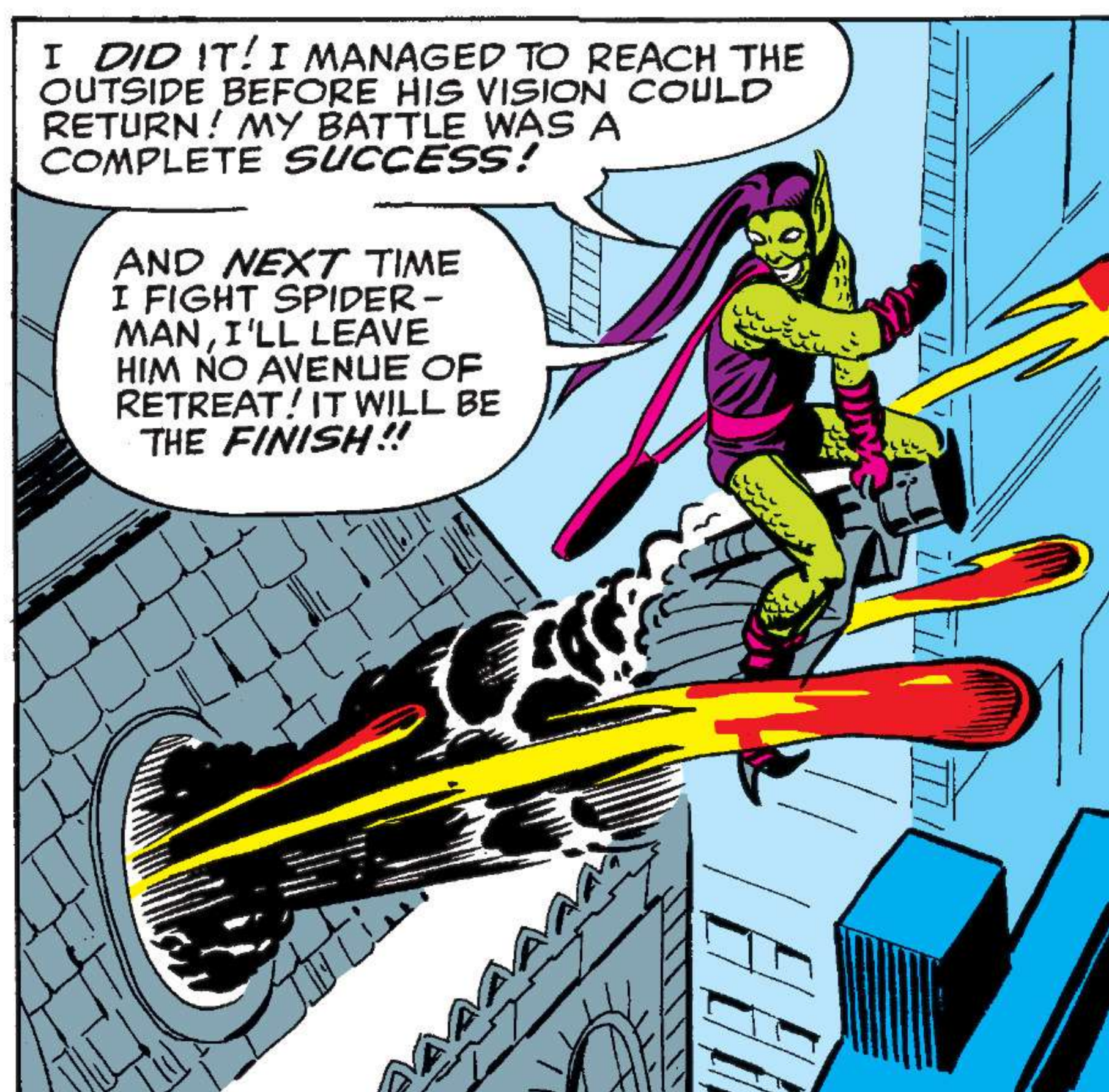
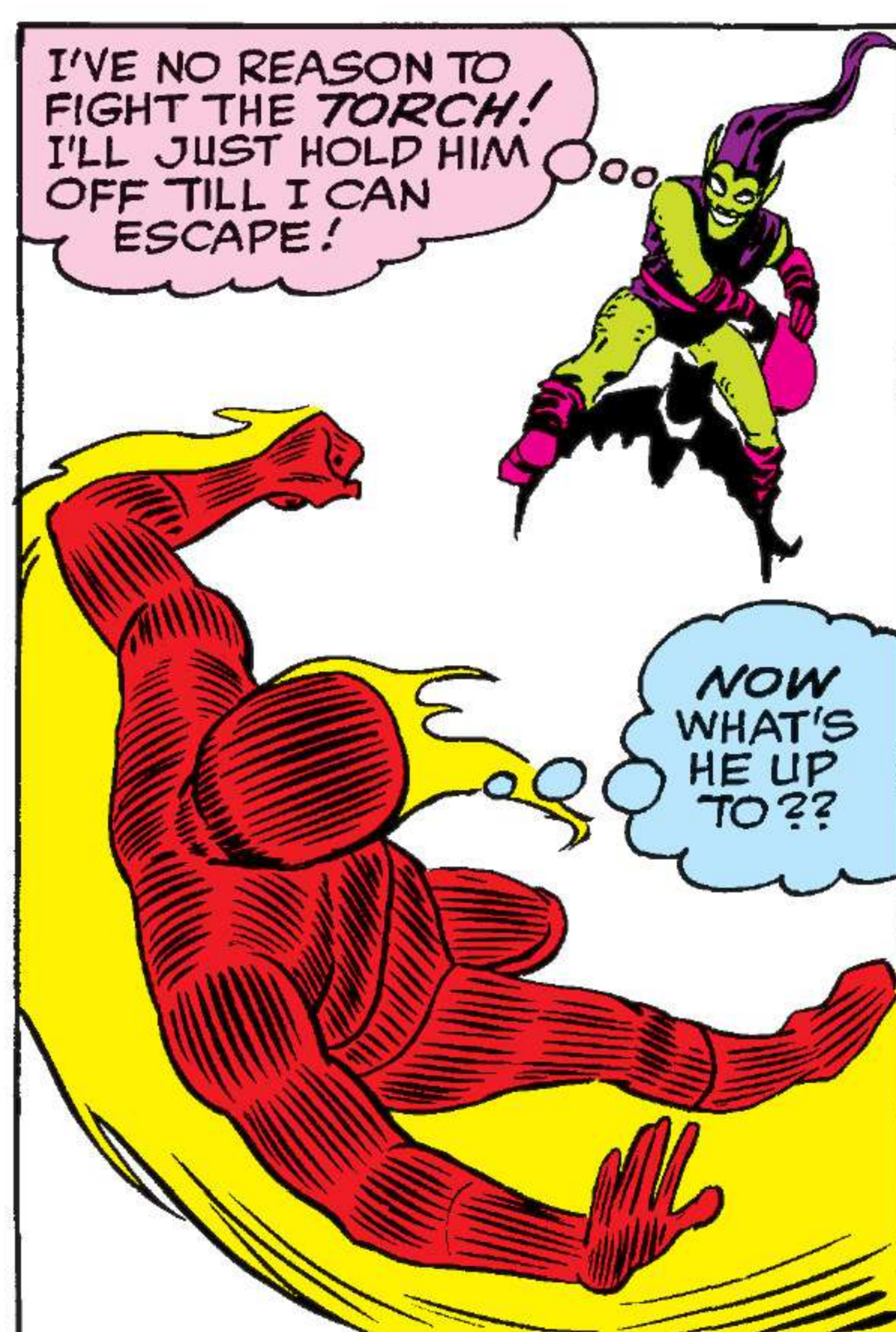
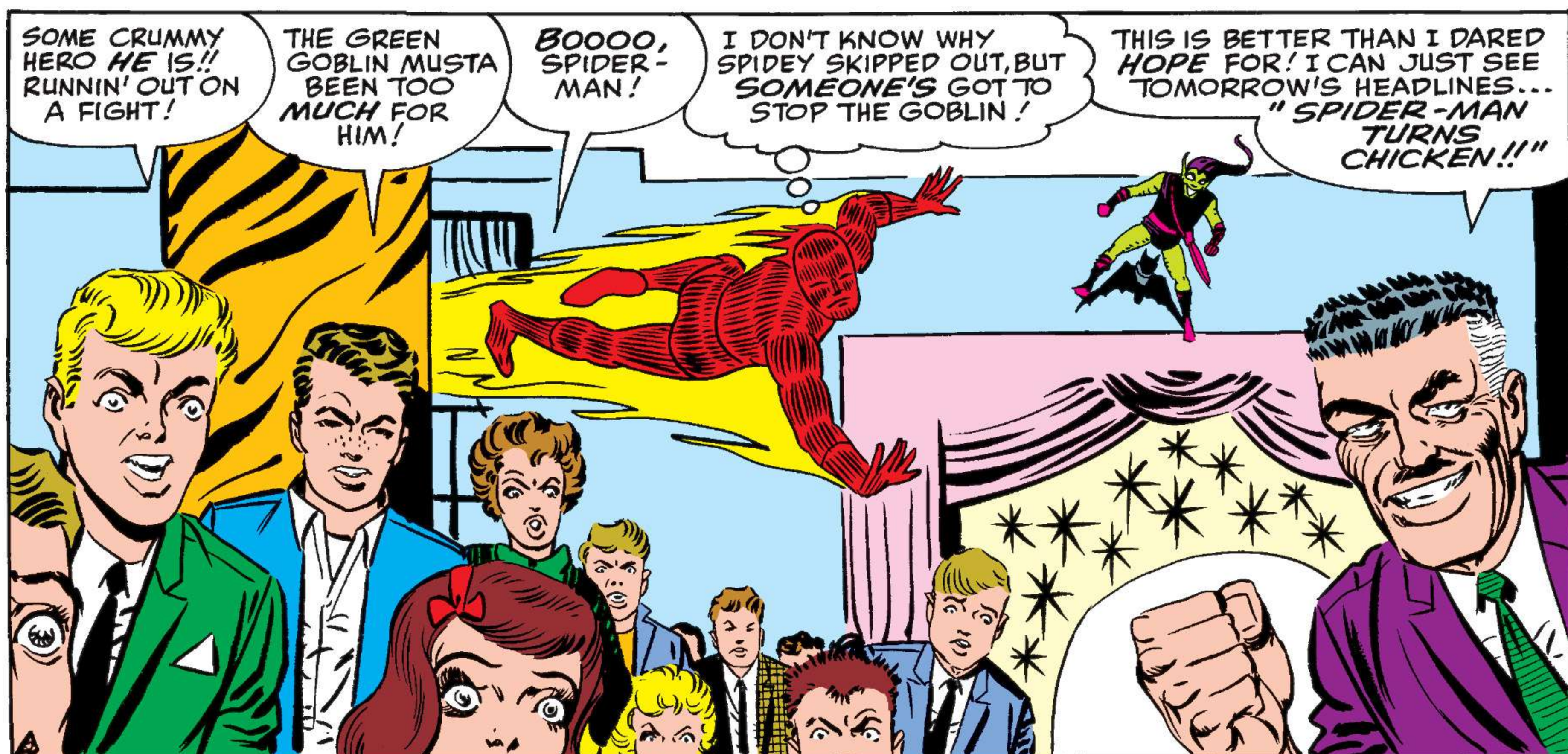


HE'S TOSSING **MORE!** I'VE GOT TO DO **SOMETHING** BEFORE I'M COMPLETELY WITHOUT OXYGEN!









AND, AS THE CROWD THINS OUT AT THE AVENUE DINNER CLUB...

JOHNNY, I'M NOT ANGRY ANY MORE... I'M **PROUD** OF YOU! I REALIZE NOW THAT YOU WERE **NEEDED** AS THE HUMAN TORCH!

THANKS, DORRIE! BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND **SPIDER-MAN**! WHAT COULD HAVE MADE HIM TURN TAIL AND **RUN** OFF THE WAY HE DID??

UNDERNEATH THAT SILLY OLD **FEUD** OF YOURS, YOU REALLY **LIKE** SPIDER-MAN, DON'T YOU, JOHNNY?

YES, I GUESS I DO, DORRIE! OR ANYWAY... I **DID**!

MISS BRANT, CALL THE PAPER! TELL THEM I'M ON MY WAY OVER! WE'RE PUTTING OUT AN **EXTRA**! I'LL TELL THE WHOLE **WORLD** WHAT A **COWARD** SPIDER-MAN REALLY TURNED OUT TO BE!

YES, MR. JAMESON...

AND I FEEL LIKE TELLING THE WORLD WHAT A **FOOL** I AM... FOR THINKING PETER PARKER EVER CARED ABOUT ME! I... I'LL NEVER TRUST HIM EVER AGAIN!

PETER PARKER MUST BE PART **GHOST**! NOW WHERE DID HE DISAPPEAR TO??

HEY, WAIT UP, FELLAS! DON'T GO YET! WE HAVE TO VOTE FOR OFFICERS FOR OUR **SPIDER-MAN FAN CLUB**!

FORGET IT, FLASH! AFTER WHAT WE JUST SAW, SPIDER-MAN CAN GO JUMP IN THE LAKE!

C'MON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

WHAT'S THE **MATTER** WITH ALL OF YOU?? ARE YOU JUST A BUNCH OF FAIR-WEATHER FRIENDS? SPIDEY MUST HAVE HAD A **REASON** FOR WHAT HE DID!!

OKAY, GO AHEAD! WALK OUT! WHO **NEEDS** YA? I'M STAYING! I'M NOT A DESERTER! OL' SPIDEY STILL HAS **ONE** FAN, ANYWAY!

NUTS! WHAT'S THE ANGLE, FLASH? IS HE A **RELATIVE** OF YOURS??

NO! HE'S NOT A RELATIVE! HE'S JUST THE GREATEST GUY IN THE WORLD! AND YOU'LL **ALL** ADMIT IT SOME DAY! JUST WAIT 'N SEE!

AND, WHILE FLASH THOMPSON LOYALLY DEFENDS HIS TEEN-AGE IDOL, PETER PARKER BREATHLESSLY APPROACHES THE HOSPITAL...

JUST A LITTLE BIT FURTHER!

THROWING CAUTION TO THE WINDS, HE USES HIS WEB TO SWING TO THE GROUND, EVEN THOUGH HE'S NOT IN COSTUME...

I DON'T CARE WHO SEES ME! I'VE GOT TO REACH AUNT MAY!

BUT, LUCKILY, THE STREET IS DESERTED AT THAT MOMENT...

AND, NOT LONG AFTERWARDS...

YOUR AUNT IS A VERY SICK WOMAN, PETER! BUT, NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, SHE SEEMS TO HAVE MORE WILL TO LIVE!

STOP THE PRESSES! MR. JAMESON IS PUTTING OUT A SPIDER-MAN EXPOSE EXTRA!

SLOWLY, THE LONG, LONELY HOURS DRAG BY, AS PETER PARKER KEEPS HIS VIGIL, UNTIL...

POOR AUNT MAY! ALL SHE EVER WANTED WAS THE BEST FOR ME! AND I NEVER SPENT ENOUGH TIME WITH HER...OR TRIED TO DO ENOUGH FOR HER!

GEN'D. WARD.

THE CRISIS IS OVER, SON! YOU MAY SEE YOUR AUNT NOW!

PETER... DEAR, DEAR PETER...

DON'T TALK, AUNT MAY! YOU'VE GOT TO REST... GAIN YOUR STRENGTH BACK! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING... JUST GET WELL!! YOU'VE GOT TO GET WELL!

FINALLY, WHEN VISITING HOURS HAVE ENDED AND PETER WEARILY WALKS HOME, HE HEARS...

HOW ABOUT THAT? THE BUGLE CALLS SPIDER-MAN A COWARD! ... RIGHT ON THE FRONT PAGE!

MY SON WAS AT THAT FAN CLUB MEETING! HE SAID SPIDER-MAN RAN OFF LIKE A SCARED RABBIT!

SURE! HE'S PROBABLY NOTHING BUT A PHONY! IT SHOWS WHAT A BIG PUBLICITY BUILD-UP WILL DO FOR A GUY!

IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE BECOME "PUBLIC HEEL #1" PRACTICALLY OVERNIGHT!

BETTY IS HURT BECAUSE SHE THINKS I WENT TO THE CLUB WITH LIZ INSTEAD OF HER!

EVERYONE THINKS I'M YELLOW, AND I'VE PROBABLY LOST ANY FANS I MIGHT HAVE HAD!

ON TOP OF ALL THAT, THE GREEN GOBLIN IS FREE AGAIN, AND MAY STRIKE AT ANY TIME!

AND THE ONE PERSON WHO'S BEEN KINDER TO ME THAN ANYONE ELSE IN MY WHOLE LIFE IS IN THE HOSPITAL NOW, AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO HELP HER!

A LOT OF GOOD IT DOES ME TO BE SPIDER-MAN! SOMETIMES I WISH I HAD NEVER HEARD THAT NAME!

WHY DON'T THINGS EVER SEEM TO TURN OUT RIGHT FOR ME? WHY DO I SEEM TO HURT PEOPLE, NO MATTER HOW I TRY NOT TO? IS THIS THE PRICE I MUST ALWAYS PAY FOR BEING... SPIDER-MAN??!

AND SO WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF THE WORLD'S MOST HUMAN, MOST MISUNDERSTOOD SUPER-HERO! BUT, IF YOU THINK HIS LIFE IS COMPLICATED NOW, JUST WAIT TILL YOU SEE THE HAND THAT A CAPRICIOUS FATE DEALS HIM NEXT ISSUE! WE PROMISE YOU A TALE YOU WILL NOT SOON FORGET!

The End.



SPIDER'S WEB

Dear Stan and Steve,

SPIDER-MAN #14 was just plain great—the only trouble was the Green Goblin. I'm glad you didn't give him a great deal of gadgets like some other comic villains, but that "flying broomstick" was too much.

Larry Schenker, 502 E. Indian Spring Dr.
Silver Spring, Md.

Some help you are, Larry! Too much what?

Dear Stan and Steve,

On the cover of SPIDER-MAN #14 it states that the Green Goblin is the most sinister, most dangerous foe Spidey's ever fought. Well, you certainly couldn't prove it by the story inside. In my opinion he doesn't have enough gimmicks. I mean stun grenades, a flying broomstick and spark-shooting fingers aren't exactly world-startling. I have faith in you though and I think the more the Goblin appears in future issues the better he'll become.

Gary Rafferty, 19 120 St.
Troy, N. Y.

And Larry claims we use too many gimmicks! Okay, web-spinners, let's hear it! More gimmicks, or less? We might as well let you fight it out!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I have no doubts that you will receive a countless number of rave letters dealing with SPIDER-MAN #14, this being one. Although the story did not have an intricate plot, it did present a very good idea which set the stage and started the ball rolling for action, an integral part of a comic book. B. J. Cosmos mentions getting a Beatle to play the roll of Spider-Man. I feel that a Beatle would have been better in the role of the Hulk. Examine the two mops which each contends to be hair and you'll get the idea. Now, action: This of course is the bright spot of the story. My favorites in action panels are: p. 5, panel 1; p. 15, panel 3; panel 5 of same page; and p. 17, panel 3. I also enjoyed p. 20, panel 6 but I always get a kick out of these sort of panels. Who the heck are the kooks who knock Mr. Ditko?? As far as I'm concerned, Steve's the best pencil and ink pusher you've got. Character development: All I'll say is "Great, as usual!" Those of us who do read the letters column have witnessed a fan by the name of Paul Gambaccini write a series of letters that were downright insulting in the earlier issues and that slowly softened up (as your mags improved) until recently he said simply, "All right, you've got me", meaning of course, over your "competitors". This has been and is being echoed all over fandom. Many saw the light sooner than Paul, a few after him, and sadly, there are some that still haven't seen the light of Marvel brilliance that clearly marks you from the rest.

Douglas Moench, 3838 N. Claremont
Chicago, Ill.

It's lucky we're so extremely modest or your praise might go to our pointy little heads! Many thanks, Doug!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Other super-heroes can control certain species of animals and insects so why can't Spider-Man have mental control over all species of spiders? It would help him since he wins every battle by a hair. In #11 Spider-Man thought about revealing his identity to Betty Brant. I disagree. Why should he tell his identity to some stupid dame? I read all your comics and your covers and artwork are superb.

Richard May, 363 Pritchard Ave.
Winnipeg 4, Manitoba, Canada

Okay, okay, Dick, so he won't tell her. But, did you think how silly it might look to see a guy sitting somewhere and having a conversation with a spider?

Dear Stan and Steve,

In issue #14 of SPIDER-MAN Jerry Murrell writes that you should have J.J.J. be saved by Spider-Man and that this would make J.J.J. feel more friendly to Spider-Man. Well, I disagree. I feel that this would make J.J.J. feel more embittered to Spider-Man for having to be grateful to a person he dislikes intensely. What I think is that J.J.J. should save Spider-Man's life. This would make J.J.J. feel that Spider-Man, like other people, is capable of mistakes. Actually J.J.J. is—or would be—a fine person if he'd only try.

David Bradley, Box 1069
Berkeley, Cal.

WE might agree with you, Dave—but don't tell it to Spidey!

Dear Stan and Steve,

SPIDER-MAN #14 was the best Spider-Man I have ever read. But what do you mean by having the Hulk as a guest star? If you ask me he is just as bad as the Enforcers. But the corniest part of the cover was, "... does the Green Goblin look cute to you? Does he make you want to smile?" How corny can you get?! I can think of a lot less corny things about the Green Goblin. I like the idea of Spider-Man having a battle in a cave—it was really different.

Walter Taylor, 919 Grant St.
Ypsilanti, Mich.

Heck, Wally—everyone knows we're cornballs! We admit it!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Ever since you came out with your SPIDER-MAN comic I have been reading every issue of it. Right now I am stationed in Turkey and it is really hard trying to keep a collection of your magazine on account of the fact that everyone wants to read it. I have never been so thrilled with a comic book. What you ought to start selling are Spider-Man badges so that people who read your book can be distinguished from the "just plain reader." I think that they would sell like wildfire. Keep up the good work—Spider-Man is the greatest!

A2C Richard Farrell, TUSLOG Det. 16
APO 289, New York, N. Y.

But you know our ever-lovin' fans, flyboy! If we ever made any Spidey badges, we'd get a million letters telling us about all the mistakes on them, and how the pins are too short, or too long!

Dear Stan and Steve,

You've done it now. You've come up with a great new villain, a few old ones and then tossed in a guest star to top it off. I am of course referring to #14. The two things that made this ish great were the appearance of the Hulk and the fact that you did not reveal the villain's identity. Surely you can't top this issue!

Morris Smart, 123 Mt. Shasta
Dallas, Texas

Mebbe not, Morrie—but we're sure gonna try!

Dear Stan and Steve,

With the fourteenth issue of SPIDER-MAN you really topped yourselves. Never before in comic history has there been a super-villain as realistic, weird, different, and as great as the Green Goblin! The name fits the character to a tee. Steve Ditko draws him as though there were a real goblin to model for him—you wouldn't be

CONTINUED

kidding us fans, would you? I mean, there really isn't a Spider-Man and a Green Goblin, is there?? Your story was superb. The way you kept the Goblin incognito was great. But I think I know who he really is. Remember little ol' Frederick Foswell, the original leader of the Enforcers? Yep, I'd be willing to bet that the Green Goblin is really good ol' Fred up to his tricks again. Actually it's stories like this last issue's that make Spider-Man the sensation he is! Bill Dubay, 58A Chenery St. San Francisco, Calif.

It's another thing too, Bill—it's fans like you!

Dear Stan and Steve,

My teacher asked me to bring a Marvel comic to school for him to see. He said he had never read one before. Boy! But I decided to take him SPIDER-MAN. I thought it would be good because of J. Jonah Jameson's part.

Patricia Jones, 249 W. Main
Gardner, Kansas

But, for goodness sake, Pat—what did your teacher say???



Dear Stan and Steve,

When I bought my first Spider mag I was in my middle teens and my interest in comics was waning fast. Today I have just finished reading SPIDER-MAN #14 and have all the issues in between. I'm now a real nut over your mags! Every month I traipse down to the drug-store and come out with about seven or eight Marvel mags. I want to thank you guys for issue #14. It even surpassed the two superb preceding issues. Never has your art been so good, Steve. And never was there so much action packed into one plot, Stan, or so much drama. And what's this about you being a "poor man's Shakespeare"? A rich man should have it so good! The Green Goblin is a terrific new villain. I have a hunch he's the other half of ol' Doc Doom's split-personality. I know a lot of work goes into producing your magazines, so hats off to all the Marry Marvel Madmen and I hope that this letter makes a small portion of it worthwhile.

Keith McWalter, 2674 Lindenwood Dr.
Bridgeville, Pa.

You made us feel so expansive, Keith, that your letter makes all of it seem worthwhile!

Dear Stan and Steve,

The art in SPIDER-MAN is terrific and I have no complaints about the other phases of Steve's art—the exception being girls' faces. Don't change Steve from Spider-Man whatever you do. Having seen all of your super-hero staff of artists draw him, (I haven't seen him illoed in MILLIE THE MODEL!) I feel qualified to say that nobody does him like Steve! Fans have written in complaining about the way Steve draws feet. I would just like to say that I personally see nothing wrong with Spidey's feet. Sure, they're a little long maybe, but so are mine (size 12 on a six footer!) Teenagers are more apt to have feet that are out of proportion to their bodies than one might think. Keep up the good work—you're marvel-ous to me!

Neil Gould, 3774 E. 151 St.
Cleveland 28, Ohio

We thank you, and each one of Stevey's eleven little curly toes thanks you, too!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I got to wondering who the Green Goblin was and I think he is the Vulture in disguise. My favorite guy is the Hulk. He reminds me of my English teacher. No offense to you guys—you should see our English teacher—a woman yet!

Jerry McCall, RR #3, Box 16
Brookville, Ohio

Never mind us! Maybe the Hulk should see her!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I think Spider-Man is the best since the Fantastic Four. My friend says that someday you will quit publishing Spider-Man and all other Marvel Group comic books because you will get old and it's a small organization. But I said that you had other good artists that could draw Spider-Man and others. Am I correct?

Rudy Rankins, 6630 Crosswell St.
Houston 17, Tex.

Sure we have other good artists! We keep threatening Steve with them all the time! But he just sits in his web and laughs!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

—Let's not waste a minute! If you haven't bought your SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL yet, don't even finish this column! You haven't time! They're selling like webcakes! So rush to your newsstand—and, if you're too late, don't blame us—we've been reminding you for weeks! We won't rub it in by describing all the great stories and features, but we just HAVE to mention the little 3-pager telling how Stan and Steve create Spidey! It's probably the funniest thing you'll see all year!

—And don't forget the ORIGIN of ol' webhead in MARVEL TALES ANNUAL which is also probably selling out right now! It contains the origins of five OTHER merry Marvel heroes as well! And wait'll you see the photos of most of our swingin' staff—a regular rogues' gallery if there ever was one!

—Naturally, every mixed-up Marvel fan waits all year for the most talked-about annual of all—and we hope you've gotten yours already—because the FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #2 is now racing neck 'n neck with Spidey in the battle of the sell-outs! And no wonder! It's a special Doctor Doom ish—containing his never-before-revealed ORIGIN, as well as an epic-length thriller featuring his final "victory"!

—And don't tell us we brag too much! Actually, we're holding ourselves back! You should hear how we'd describe those annuals if we wanted to BOAST!

—Okay, now for other biz: You asked for it—so you're GETTING it! Ol' glamor pants himself, CAPTAIN AMERICA, will appear regularly in IRON MAN, beginning with ish #59! And, just for a warm-up, you'll see him battling shell-head in IRON MAN #58 which is on sale now!

—Just a few more notes: FANTASTIC FOUR #31 features the mysterious Mole Man, and introduces an unexpected surprise character who'll be very important in the lives of the Human Torch and the Invisible Girl! TALES TO ASTONISH #60 begins the great new Hulk series, produced by Stan and Dick! And STRANGE TALES #125 has the Sub-Mariner battling the Torch and the Thing!

—A great new artist to note is demon draftsman Dick Rockwell, another ex-Marvel alumnus who's trying his hand at Giant-Man in TALES TO ASTONISH #61! Dazzling Dick has style he hasn't USED yet—wait 'n see!

—As for ol' Spidey, next ish is gonna be real different! The whole plot was dreamed up by Sunny Steve and it was just nutty enough for Stan to okay it! You'll see Spider-Man acting differently than ever before! 'Nuff said!

—Yessir, things are really perkin' here in the bullpen! Sorry we haven't room to tell you more—but this we CAN say—we're really flying high these days—and it's all because of YOU, and your wonderful support! We love ya all, and promise to keep knocking ourselves out to give you the greatest mags we can! Lookin' forward to seeing you next ish—so, till then, **FACE FRONT!**